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When \$4,000 Bags Are Hot, Luxury Is Back

By Dana Canedy
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Hermes has a waiting list for its \$4,000 Kelly bags. Neiman Marcus, the Dallas-based retailer, sold all 50 of the \$75,000 Jaguars featured in its Christmas catalogue in eight days. Patek Philippe has back orders for a \$44,500 watch.

Luxury is selling in the United States, and at a growth rate faster than that for goods and services as a whole.

Luxury goods from Gucci handbags to Montblanc pens saw sales grow about 18 percent last year, to \$30 billion, according to Tactical Retail Monitor, a news-

letter that tracks retail spending and consumer trends for retailers, manufacturers and shopping centers nationwide. By contrast, overall sales of merchandise from tennis shoes to compact disks increased just 5 percent, to \$630 billion.

The gap is widening. Sales of luxury goods, defined as the most expensive items in a category, will increase 30 percent this quarter from a year earlier because of brisk holiday spending, while sales of mass merchandise will increase just 5 percent, Tactical Retail Monitor says. For the year, the luxury segment is projected to grow more than 21 percent, while growth in overall sales should equal last year's rate.

The luxury business has been fueled by sharply rising incomes among the wealthiest American fam-

ilies, a surge in the stock market last year and much of this year, and an increase in the numbers of people in their peak earning years.

The faster growth in luxury spending can be seen in the sales figures for many products and services, from expensive cruises and jewelry to cars, apparel and televisions.

Across the United States, from Madison Avenue in New York to Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, retailers and brokers have stories about how the market for luxury goods and services has grown. After sales were relatively flat in the first part of the 1990s, luxury products are now selling at a rate

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Trade Ministers Agree on Global High-Tech Accord

At Least 25 Countries to Join Far-Reaching Deal to Cut Tariffs

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — In the most far-reaching global trade accord in recent years, trade ministers agreed Thursday to abolish tariffs on more than \$500 billion a year of trade in computers, software, chips and telecommunications equipment by 2000.

The agreement — the biggest trade deal ever in a single sector — is expected to win the backing Friday of 25 to 30 countries, which jointly represent more than 80 percent of world trade in information technology products. Several other nations are likely to join the deal early in the New Year. It will remain open for signing until March 15.

The breakthrough should provide a major boost for world economic growth

party to the accord would also benefit from less expensive phones, faxes, computers, software and other products that are made with tariff-free parts from elsewhere.

Although the identities of countries signing on to the information technology agreement initially will not be announced until Friday, a copy of the draft accord provided to the International Herald Tribune on Thursday night listed a number of governments that had already agreed to join the deal with the

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A Son of Saddam Shot in Baghdad

Udai Is Wounded in Ambush

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, sometimes described as his heir apparent, was slightly wounded Thursday when attackers ambushed his car.

Udai Hussein was rushed to a hospital, where he was reported in stable condition, Youth TV reported.

The station, which is owned by Udai Hussein, interrupted its programming to announce that he was attacked while driving in the upscale Mansour district of Baghdad.

It said that the police were investigating the incident, but there were no details on who carried out the attack or the specifics of the injury.

Udai Hussein has been the target of assassins before. In 1992, gunmen shot him in the arm while he was driving into his farm north of Baghdad.

After the Gulf War, Mr. Saddam put key ministries and military units under the supervision of his two sons. He further increased their powers after a power struggle in his usually tight-knit family that was sparked by the defection of his two sons-in-law, Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel and his brother, Saddam Kamel.

The two brothers left for Jordan in August 1995, vowing to topple the regime. They were killed by family members after they returned in March.

Udai Hussein, who heads the trade and information ministries, is considered by some to be greedy, a playboy and prone to violence. He was sent into exile in Switzerland after he bludgeoned to death his father's favorite servant in 1989. Last year, Udai shot one of Mr. Saddam's half-brothers in the leg during a family quarrel.

Mr. Saddam's younger son, Qusai, is in control of the Republican Guards and the state's security apparatus.



ISRAELI VOW ON SETTLEMENTS — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel speaking Thursday at the funeral of two settlers, a woman and her 12-year-old son, killed by gunmen in the West Bank. He vowed to "deepen" Jewish settlements. Page 2.

France and U.S. in Snit Over a 'Snub'

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Diplomatic tension between the United States and France intensified Thursday, as Washington and Paris exchanged extraordinary public charges over an alleged snub of Secretary of State Warren Christopher by his French counterpart, Herve de Charette.

The State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, confirmed a report that the French foreign minister had walked out of a NATO meeting attended by Mr. Christopher.

A French government spokesman called the report "false and malicious."

The report by The Washington Post, carried by the International Herald Tribune, said that Mr. de Charette walked out of a lunch for North Atlantic Treaty Organization ministers in Brussels as the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana, was toasting Mr. Christopher, who is retiring.

The French government spokesman, Jacques Rasmont, angrily denied that there had been an incident at lunch.

"The aim of those who peddled this information is clearly to harm Franco-American relations," he said.

Mr. Burns praised the Post report, saying, "I would commend that article to you." He said that it had been accurate on every point but one: The French minister's abrupt departure was after the formal luncheon.

Mr. Burns would not comment on the state of relations between Mr. de Charette and Mr. Christopher.

In Paris, Mr. de Charette said he "severely" condemned "intrigues of this kind."

In an apparent attempt to defuse the issue, a senior French official later said that Mr. de Charette had unintentionally missed a tribute to Mr. Christopher at a NATO dinner but did not deliberately snub him.

"The tribute was not on the agenda and it was therefore, unaware that it



Even at a Paris meeting last month, Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, left, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher were not seeing eye to eye.

Ghanaian Gets 14-1 in UN Poll

Agence France-Presse

UNITED NATIONS, New York — France cast a lone negative vote Thursday against Kofi Annan of Ghana in a "straw poll" on the next UN chief, diplomats said.

The rest of the Security Council rallied behind Mr. Annan, who is undersecretary-general for UN peacekeeping under Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Annan won the informal vote, 14 to 1.

The Security Council president, Paolo Fulci, declined to provide details, but diplomats said that France was alone in casting a vote of "discouragement" that could turn into a veto in a formal vote.

"Now the question is, do the French reveal in being alone against the world, or do they cut a deal," an aide to Mr. Annan said.

Mr. Fulci scheduled a new straw poll for Friday.

30-Year Treaty Ends Feud on Ganges Water

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

NEW DELHI — India and Bangladesh signed a 30-year agreement Thursday on sharing water from the Ganges River, settling what had been the biggest dispute between the South Asian neighbors for two decades.

The water dispute dates from 1975, when India constructed a dam on the Ganges near the eastern border with Bangladesh and began to siphon water into another river to flush silt from Calcutta's port. India initially ignored protests from its smaller, poorer neighbor that the water diversion would damage the Ganges basin downstream in Bangladesh, where the river empties into the Indian Ocean.

The two countries did reach a water-sharing agreement in 1977, but it lapsed in 1988. Since then, India has significantly reduced the amount of water released from the dam during the dry season, causing ecological and economic problems in Bangladesh.

The seven-page pact signed here

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AGENDA

U.S. Blue-Chips Drop 98 Points

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Down 98.81	Down 0.57%
6803.71	148.47
The Dollar	Thus. close
DM	1.541
Yen	1.657
FF	5.2138

Ovitz to Leave as No. 2 at Disney

Michael Ovitz will step down as the No. 2 executive at Walt Disney by "mutual consent," the company said Thursday.

The company said that it would not immediately name a successor and that its organization would continue to operate as it did before Mr. Ovitz's arrival just over a year ago. Mr. Ovitz will continue to be an adviser and consultant, Disney said.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Ovitz, who has been locked in a power struggle with his boss, Michael Eisner, had another position lined up.

Earlier Thursday, a spokesman for Sony Corp. denied reports Mr. Ovitz was heading for that company, which

owns the troubled Columbia and TriStar studios.

"Michael Eisner has been my good friend for 25 years and that will not change," Mr. Ovitz said. "But it is important to recognize when something is not working."

Mr. Ovitz came to Disney from Creative Artists Agency, the influential Hollywood talent agency he co-founded and ran from 1975 until 1995. (Page 15)

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The Price of Opposition

Statistical Slip Costs Singapore Politico \$18,000

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

SINGAPORE — With parliamentary elections expected in the next few weeks, the fastest-rising star in Singapore's fragmented and fractious opposition has escaped a jail sentence and instead must pay a \$18,000 fine.

His crime: He misstated a statistic to a parliamentary committee and attributed it to a typing error.

It takes an uncommon idealism or foolhardiness to challenge the ruling People's Action Party in Singapore, which has held power since independence from Britain in 1959 and now fills all but 4 of the 81 elected seats in Parliament.

Jail is rare. More often, as with the opposition politician Chee Soon Juan, political dissidents are sued, fined, financially broken and professionally ostracized.

In addition to his fine, Mr. Chee faces a potentially ruinous \$180,000 defamation suit brought against him by a rival opposition politician, whom he accused of supporting the ruling party. In 1993, he said, he was forced to sell his home in order to pay off another defamation suit brought by a member of the ruling party who was also his boss and who also fired him from his university teaching job.

As the nation prepares for an election, which must be held by April but is expected to be called as soon as this month or next, the main issue of suspense is whether the ruling party will fall below the 61 percent of the popular vote it gained in 1991.

Quite apart from hardball politics, there is little question here that the party has earned the right to lead.

Over three decades, it has engineered the transformation of this city-state of 3 million people into a model of efficiency where the per capita income now surpasses that of its former colonial ruler.

Even opposition figures like Mr. Chee credit the country's success to its authoritarian rule, but they question whether this governing formula remains the best one for the future.

"As we go into the 21st century, we can't just go on with this authoritarian leadership," Mr. Chee said in an interview. "We want the basic freedoms, to have the right to question our government, to have it be accountable to us, to have a say in how our country is run."

Addressing a student group, the nation's patriarch, Lee Kuan Yew, who now has the title of senior minister, said

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Newstand Prices	
Andorra	10.00 FF
Antilles	12.50 FF
Armenia	1.600 CFA
Egypt	2.50 FF
France	10.00 FF
Gabon	1.100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.
Italy	2.900 Lire
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA
Jordan	1.250 JD
Lebanon	11,300 LL
Morocco	16 Dh
Qatar	10.00 Rials
Rumania	12.50 FF
Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Senegal	1.100 CFA
Spain	225 PTAS
Tunisia	1,250 Dh
U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
U.S. (Ex.)	\$1.20



Face 9 Stories High / Sculptor Began in 1948

A Dream Carved in Stone, Chief Crazy Horse Rides On

By Paul Hendrickson
Washington Post Service

THUNDERHEAD MOUNTAIN, South Dakota — Chief Crazy Horse, the great warrior of the Oglala Sioux, believed his bones would turn into rocks after his death. Here in the Black Hills, that conviction is coming true.

A massive statue of him is taking shape, blasted out of a mountain by a band of laborers pursuing the vision of an artist who has been dead for 14 years. Just lately the full mouth, the cleft of the chin, have begun to emerge. The face, nine stories high, is almost complete.

Various workers, led by the descendants of an obsessed Polish-American sculptor, have been toiling on Crazy Horse for almost 50 years — and have ahead of them maybe another half-century of blasting and sanding and hauling and flaking and chipping and superheating torching. By the end, if it gets that far, Crazy Horse will be on his racing steed, arm outstretched, pointing to the lands where his beloved Sioux lie buried. It will be the largest mountain sculpture in the world.

The arm will be 263 feet (80 meters) long. The feather in his flying hair will be 44 feet high. The original carver and presiding genius was Korczak Ziolkowski. He came to the Black Hills from New England after Chief Henry Standing Bear, a Sioux tribal elder, wrote to him and supposedly said: "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too." This was in 1939, and Mr. Ziolkowski had just won a first prize for his marble portrait of the pianist and statesman Ignacy Paderewski at the New York World's Fair.

The self-taught sculptor answered the call, journeying to the Dakota wilderness and pitching a tent. He first began working the 600-foot-high mountain, called Thunderhead, under a special-use permit, staking a mining claim on the mountain with his own money. In the early 1950s, the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation acquired Thunderhead and 328 acres (133 hectares) around it through a land exchange with the federal government.

By then Mr. Ziolkowski had built wooden stairs by hand, shooed away many mountain goats, begun his decades of blasting. That first explosion at the top, on June 3, 1948, took off 10 tons of granite. The blaster, the dreamer, was almost 40 years old.

For the next 34 years, Mr. Ziolkowski labored, in good weather and bad, always short of money. He began to charge admission. He endured local taunts. He found some understanding and even became a force in the community.

He fathered 10 children. He grew a mountaineer's beard. "A storyteller in stone" is how he liked describing himself. He died in 1982 at the age of 74. And ever since, his widow, Ruth Ziolkowski, and most of their children have carried on his passion.

The scaffolds have mostly gone away. They can't argue with 8.5 million tons of rock, which is what has been removed from the mountain thus far.

The face alone is so big that all four presidential faces of nearby Mount Rushmore could fit inside Crazy Horse's head. They demonstrate this with superimposed artwork in a slide show at the visitors' center. If it goes all the way, the 563-foot-tall sculpture will be taller than the Washington Monument or the Great Pyramids.

The head of the beast that Crazy Horse is one day to be astride — who knows, maybe in 2051 — will go

22 stories. As they say in the slide show, "One nostril could hold a five-room house."

From the beginning the work has been privately financed. The builders have been able to survive on the strength of gate admissions, donations, gift-shop receipts and big bank loans, with no government support. This work-in-progress is not part of the National Park Service, as Rushmore is. At the entrance, there is a large sign declaring that the nonprofit mountain carving is "to and for the Indian people of America."

There's another sign: "Never Forget Your Dreams."

Crazy Horse, that brilliant tactician, that fearless chief who helped lead the assault on General George Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, a man who never signed a treaty and never surrendered in his heart, is said to have been a slim person of medium height with brown hair dropping below his belt and a scar above his lip.

No photograph or portrait painting or even true sketch of him is known to exist. Photographers, more courteous then, would beg to take a snap. "My friend," the Indian would answer, "why should you wish to shorten my life by taking from me my shadow?"

As it was, he died young, in his 30s, victim of a stabbing in a white man's garb.

Last year, according to the Ziolkowskis, 1.2 million people came to gaze and marvel at Crazy Horse as he unveils himself. The gapers averaged four in a car, and paid \$6 per person, or \$15 a carload.

In the summer, when the gate receipts are large, the staff at Crazy Horse Memorial can swell to as many as 200 workers. Not all are engaged in chipping away at the mountain. (The core blasting and carving group, even at peak periods, seems to be no more than a dozen.) Others help out in the gift shop, staff the Laughing Water restaurant, do maintenance, conduct tours.

One Ziolkowski son, Casimir, has become an expert blaster and driller. Another, Mark, keeps the timber cleared and the roads up the mountain passable. A daughter named Jadwiga helps balance the books. At the moment seven of the 10 children work at Crazy Horse. The head of the operation is still Ruth Ziolkowski, 70.

A man once came here from the Midwest, was stunned by what he saw and donated \$250,000. Just recently a woman deeded 160 acres of good Colorado grazing land to the memorial. In most cases, corporations that have given money have earmarked the funds not for the carving itself, but for the memorial's cultural center and museum.

One day the Ziolkowskis envision on these grounds, at the bottom of this mountain, a university and a medical training center for the North American Indian. Thus far, the Crazy Horse Memorial Native American Scholarship Program has awarded a total of \$175,000 in educational grants.

But a question: Doesn't the whitening of a mountain into the likeness of an Indian who never allowed a picture to be taken of him represent a kind of unthinking, or at least unwitting, despoiling of the Earth? Isn't it in some sense what the Native Amer-



Seen nearly a mile away through a horde of tourists, the face of Chief Crazy Horse as envisioned by Korczak Ziolkowski emerges from a mountain in South Dakota.

ican is against in the deepest part of his soul?

John Yellow Bird Steele is president of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. He generally supports the work. "The people all agree with the end result," he said, "especially the idea of a university and medical center someday."

Mike Her Many Horses is the legislative coordinator for the Oglala Sioux. "Historically, we've been generally supportive of the work," he said. "I think the message being carved there is pride."

Lyman Red Cloud, a fifth-generation descendant of Chief Red Cloud, is a sergeant-at-arms on the reservation. "I speak for myself," he said. "I'm totally against it. Because first of all, Crazy Horse is a spiritual man. He's a sacred person. You don't carve a big statue of Jesus or God on a mountain and take money from it. No matter how you look at it, the white man is making money off the Indians. When you start carving it, you start desecrating the Black Hills and you desecrate the person. That thing is for white people."

Mr. Ziolkowski, who has heard just about every criticism during his lifetime and endured them, anticipated this one.

"The purpose of Crazy Horse is noble," he wrote in 1952 to his children, some of whom had not been born yet and some of whom have the message tacked up now on their walls. "There are many people who do not see its nobility at present, and even in your time, and maybe in your children's time, the vision of Crazy Horse might be clouded to some people, but if you so wish to dedicate your life as to carry out my dreams, and I can now say your mother's dreams too, they will then also be your dreams someday."

Israeli Leader Promises To 'Deepen' Settlements Vow Made at Shooting Victims' Funeral

The Associated Press

BEIT EL, West Bank — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised Thursday to "deepen" Jewish settlements in the West Bank after a settler woman and her 12-year-old son were killed in a shooting.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical Palestinian group opposed to the Israel-Palestinian peace agreements, claimed responsibility for the shootings and linked them to Israel's settlement policies.

Eta Tzur, 42, and her son Efraim were killed Wednesday evening when gunmen sprayed their car with dozens of bullets near the Jewish settlement of Beit El. The gunmen, who fired as they drove by, sped away into the Palestinian-controlled town of Ramallah.

"The roots of the Jewish people are rooted in the land of Beit El," Mr. Netanyahu, his voice shaking with emotion, said Thursday at the Tzurs' funeral. "These roots not only will not be uprooted, they will be deepened."

Israel's answer to the killers, he said, "is that we are staying here."

"We are building here," the prime minister said. "We live here. You will not uproot us from here."

Mr. Netanyahu also demanded that the Palestinians help catch the gunmen. Israeli troops clamped a closure on Ramallah, barring anyone from leaving or entering.

Abu Ahmed Fuad, a member of the political office of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told The Associated Press in Damascus that "one of our teams carried out this operation."

"We will continue our struggle as long as the occupation and settlements continue," he said. "We have warned more than once that our struggle will continue in all forms, including military attacks."

Wednesday was the anniversary of the founding of the radical front, which has carried out several similar shootings in the last two years.

Palestinian sources said that Palestinian police had arrested seven activists of the front in Ramallah on Thursday, and Israeli Army radio said 15 activists had been arrested.

Thousands of people attended the Tzurs' funeral in Beit El.

Mr. Netanyahu praised them as "pioneers, heroes of our time." Denouncing the "campaign of slander" against settlers, he said "it is time to say that there is no one better than them."

Mrs. Tzur's husband, Yoel, and four of their children were wounded in the shooting. Mr. Tzur is a founder of the Beit El settlement and manager of Arutz Sheva, a private settler radio station.

He told Israeli radio that the family had been attacked as it returned home from visiting relatives. Mr. Tzur said he saw a car drive in reverse, turn around, and a man take out a Kalashnikov rifle and start firing.

"My son was immediately killed when he was hit with a bullet that went straight through his head," he said.

Mr. Tzur said he got out of the car and stopped a Palestinian driving by. The Palestinian drove him to a nearby gas station where he called for help.

Mr. Tzur blamed the shooting on the "stupid autonomy accord" with the Palestinians and urged Mr. Netanyahu to respond to every attack by expanding Jewish settlements.

The Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning the attack. "An attack of this kind will give the Israeli government a pretext to delay the implementation of the peace process," it said.

Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for Yasser Arafat, said the Palestinian Authority would "do all in its power to find, catch, and punish those who committed this act."

An Israeli government spokesman, Moshe Fogel, said that Israel did not plan to hold up negotiations on the Hebron withdrawal in response to the attack.

But he said that the shooting had increased Israeli concerns for the safety of the 500 Jewish settlers who live in Hebron amid 130,000 Palestinians.

Sparks Force US Air Landing

The Associated Press

TERRE HAUTE, Indiana — A USAir plane with more than 175 people aboard was forced to land when sparks and flames sputtered from the back of the cabin and passengers smelled smoke. No one was hurt.

The Boeing 757, headed from Phoenix to Pittsburgh, landed safely at Terre Haute airport in western Indiana at 3 P.M. Wednesday, 15 minutes after flight attendants ran to the back of the plane with fire extinguishers.

"People said from the beginning of the flight there was an electrical fire smell, and shortly before we landed there were sparks and flames coming up through the floor," said Fritz Baumgartner, a passenger.

A USAir spokesman said the airline did not know what had caused the sparks and smoke.

The flight had been delayed 30 minutes in Phoenix, and passengers sitting in the back said they smelled smoke shortly after takeoff. They said they were told they smelled coffee pots.

The plane had reported no mechanical problems to the Federal Aviation Administration, records show.

WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe	Today	Tomorrow	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	18/24	19/23	17/22	11/22	17/22	11/22
Andorra	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Austria	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Belgium	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Bulgaria	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Croatia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Czechia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Denmark	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Estonia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Finland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
France	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Germany	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Greece	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Hungary	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Ireland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Italy	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Latvia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Lithuania	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Malta	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Netherlands	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Norway	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Poland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Portugal	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Romania	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Slovakia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Slovenia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Spain	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Sweden	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Switzerland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Turkey	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Ukraine	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
United Kingdom	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
USA	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Asia	Today	Tomorrow	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	18/24	19/23	17/22	11/22	17/22	11/22
Andorra	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Austria	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Belgium	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Bulgaria	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Croatia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Czechia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Denmark	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Estonia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Finland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
France	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Germany	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Greece	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Hungary	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Ireland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Italy	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Latvia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Lithuania	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Malta	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Netherlands	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Norway	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Poland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Portugal	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Romania	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Slovakia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Slovenia	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Spain	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Sweden	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Switzerland	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Turkey	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
Ukraine	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
United Kingdom	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14
USA	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14	12/14

TRAVEL UPDATE

French Union Calls Transport Strike

PARIS (AP) — Encouraged by gains made by striking truckers, a key labor union has called for a one-day strike by bus and subway workers across France next Tuesday.

The strike, called by the Communist-led General Labor Confederation, is aimed at gaining the same right to early retirement that truckers won in their 12-day strike that ended Nov. 29. The union, known as the CGT, said the strike would target public transit in Paris as well as other big cities.

Shanghai Flights Reach Record

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Flights to and from Shanghai airport reached a record 335 in one 24-hour period during a large increase in traffic through 1996, the Xinhua press agency reported Thursday.

The airport handled more than a 11 million passengers in the first 11 months of the year, Xinhua said.

Singapore Passengers to Place Bets

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore Airlines will introduce in-flight gambling next year as part of an upmarket entertainment system for passengers, the airline said Thursday.

It would be the first Asian airline to have such a facility on board. The airline's senior manager for public affairs, Rick Clements, said there would be a built-in limit on losses.

A nationwide strike by flight personnel and ground staff of Lufthansa German Airlines grounded 92 of the carrier's domestic and European flights early Thursday, an airline spokesman said.

U.S. Airlines to Add Cargo Fire Detectors

By Matthew L. Wald
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Major U.S. airlines will voluntarily install fire detectors in cargo compartments of airplanes that do not already have them, Vice President Al Gore said Thursday.

Safety investigators have said that the crash May 11 of a ValuJet Airlines DC-9 in the Florida Everglades, which killed 110 people, might have been prevented by an early warning from fire detectors.

"With this announcement, virtually all the airlines are saying that they're not going to wait for the regulatory process to catch up; they're moving forward on their own," Mr. Gore said.

The vice president said the upgrading of about 3,700 passenger planes would begin in 1997 and cost about \$400 million.

The Federal Aviation Administration said last month, shortly before hearings opened on the ValuJet crash, that it would draft rules to require fire-detection and suppression systems for 2,800 commercial aircraft that did not have them.

The latest agreement does not cover suppression systems. The agreement also does not cover small airlines such as ValuJet, but they presumably would be covered by any final federal rules on the subject.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which investigated the ValuJet fire and fires on other planes, recommended the detectors in 1988, but the FAA rejected the idea as too expensive.

Fire-detection systems are common on wide-body jets but less common on narrower planes such as the DC-9. Such planes have cargo compartments that are airtight and heavily insulated. They are supposed to contain a fire by smothering it. In the ValuJet case, though, the cargo included oxygen generators, which make oxygen and apparently fed the fire.

Even though the major airlines are acting voluntarily, the aviation agency will have to approve the equipment before it can be installed. How long the upgrades will take is unclear. Improvements ordered by the agency often take years, but a voluntary action such as this could move more quickly.

Fuel-Tank Checks for 747s

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Federal Aviation Administration has ordered U.S. airlines to inspect their later-model Boeing 747s for cracks in the center fuel tank wall that have been found in several earlier-model planes.

The agency did not extend the directive to 747-100s, the type of jet that crashed as TWA Flight 800 off New York's Long Island on July 17, killing all 230 people aboard.

That early model does not store fuel in the area where fatigue cracks have been found, so the problem could only lead to a loss of cabin pressure, a Boeing spokesman said Wednesday. The fatigue cracks in the later-model planes could pose a more serious risk of fire, although none large enough to cause a leak have been found, the spokesman said.

Burma Leaders Widen Crackdown



Burmese protesting Thursday outside the country's embassy in Tokyo.

Dissident Party Reports Arrests

RANGOON — Burma's military rulers have widened their crackdown on anti-government unrest, tightening security in the capital and arresting members of the country's opposition party, dissident figures said Thursday.

The National League for Democracy's deputy leader, Tin Oo, said that 28 members had been arrested in five days, 13 of them from the league's youth wing and one a politician.

The league won a general election in 1990 that was not recognized by the ruling military government.

A spokesman for the government, which is facing the most serious protests since it crushed a 1988 democracy uprising, said it would maintain restrictions on the movements of the opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, as long as the student unrest continued.

He said the restrictions would remain in force "as long as the situation still does not go back to normal."

In an ominous warning to the student protesters, meanwhile, one of Burma's top generals vowed in comments published Thursday to annihilate anyone disrupting his government's work.

The remarks by General Tin Oo, who bears the same name as the league official, were published in state-run newspapers after six days of student protests in Rangoon and Mandalay.

The thousands of students demonstrators are demanding freedom, human rights, an end to police brutality and the right to form a student union.

The protests have diminished Wednesday and Thursday to brief, hit-and-run style demonstrations because the authorities have sealed off universities and other rallying points.

A broad area of the capital is surrounded by checkpoints, and many people who live inside the area say they have not gone to work or shopped in three days because they are afraid they will not be allowed to return home.

Schools remained closed for the fourth day Thursday, and the authorities postponed an annual marathon.

General Tin Oo is one of the four most powerful generals in the ruling junta that seized power by violently crushing the 1988 uprising. More than 3,000 civilians were gunned down by the military, thousands were jailed and schools were closed for three years.

The government "will never allow the recurrence of the 1988 disturbances and would annihilate any internal elements who are trying to disrupt the country," the general said. (Reuters, AP)

Mother Teresa's Bronchitis Persists

CALCUTTA — Mother Teresa's doctors said Thursday that a persistent respiratory disease was continuing to delay her recovery from recent heart surgery.

Dr. Patricia Aubanel, an American member of the medical panel treating the missionary at the B.M. Birla Heart Research Center here, said that Mother Teresa, 86, had suffered from lung disease since childhood and had been suffering from bronchitis, an inflammation of the lining of the bronchial tubes, for two months.

Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, underwent surgery last month to clear two blocked coronary arteries.

She had similar surgery in 1991 in the

United States and in 1993 at the Birla clinic. Clinic officials said Mother Teresa had suffered some chest pain Thursday because of the bronchitis but had recovered to eat her breakfast and say her prayers.

"The chest pain is now all right," said A. K. Chatterjee, an administrator at the clinic. "The discomfort was because of pulmonary infection."

Mother Teresa was in a subdued mood Thursday. Mr. Chatterjee said, but she managed to meet with colleagues from her Missionaries of Charity religious order.

On Wednesday, her doctors gave her a mild electric shock to correct an irregular heartbeat. Afterward, they said the procedure was a success.

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SINGAPORE: Expensive Mistake

Continued from Page 1

that a full-fledged two-party system was not out of the question in the future, but that for the present, the People's Action Party had a monopoly on the country's political talent.

"I do not see in the opposition, as constituted today, that seriousness of purpose or intellectual content to pose as an alternative," he said.

It is a foregone conclusion that the People's Action Party will win again in the coming election. Not only does it control both government largesse and the political process but it has also scared off potential challengers.

Speaking to foreign correspondents last week, Chia Shi Tek, a businessman who is hoping to field a team of independent candidates, complained that the best-qualified prospects were afraid of getting into trouble with the government.

"I have one whose parents called me and cried. 'Please don't take my son,'" Mr. Chia said. Another came under pressure from his law partners and from his wife, who threatened to divorce him. A third said he was afraid that his wife, who owns a business, would lose contracts.



Chee Soon Juan has found opposition politics in Singapore expensive.

Mr. Chia himself was at pains to declare that his own potential candidacy was benign.

"I love my prime minister," he said. "I love and revere our senior minister."

He chose his words wisely. The People's Action Party does not take kindly to gadflies.

Mr. Chia ran into trouble in August when he told a parliamentary hearing that government spending on health care had fallen from 40 percent of the na-

tion's total costs in 1970 to 5 percent in 1990. The actual 1990 figure was 25 percent.

The People's Action Party pounced. Health Minister George Yeo accused Mr. Chia and three other Singapore Democratic Party members of perjury, misconduct and giving false information to Parliament.

Two weeks ago, the Parliamentary Privileges Committee issued a 196-page report on Mr. Chia's statistical error and found him guilty as charged.

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Cambodia Aide Exonerates Khmer Rouge

Agence France-Presse

TEK SOK, Cambodia — Cambodia's second prime minister, Hun Sen, toured a former Khmer Rouge zone in the northwest Thursday, telling former rebels that the long war they had been fighting was not their fault.

"We were not responsible for that war," Mr. Hun Sen told a large crowd of recent Khmer Rouge defectors here. "We were not at fault at all in creating the war and the genocidal regime" of Pol Pot.

"During the 1970s there was a small group of people who created the war, and we were all just victims," he said, without identifying who was responsible.

Some of those present said the comments, made four kilometers (2.5 miles) south of Samlot, which was the site of a major uprising against the government of Norodom Sihanouk in 1967, were curious for their ambiguity.

Although the comments appeared to refer to the hard-line Khmer Rouge leadership still fighting the government, some said they could have had a deeper meaning.

Mr. Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge leader who defected and helped Vietnamese forces to overthrow the radical Maoist group in 1979, has frequently said he joined the guerrillas only after hearing then-Prince Sihanouk, now Cambodia's king, appeal for help against the U.S.-backed government that toppled him in a coup in March 1970.

"We were only hostages of the war, and if you think about that time, during March of 1970, I was not even 18 years old," Mr. Hun Sen told the crowd.

Sihanouk allied himself with the Khmer Rouge after the coup and lent his name to their struggle but quit as their figurehead chief of state when he realized the atrocities they were committing.

After Hanoi's invasion, Sihanouk became the leader of the tripartite resistance movement that fought the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh in which Mr. Hun Sen was a senior official. Although Mr. Hun Sen is known to be suspicious that a resurrection of that alliance might be attempted with King Sihanouk at the top, something the king has denied, he appealed for the country to unify.

"We have found a solution to end this war, which we did not create," he said. "We don't need to listen to the sound of guns anymore; now we only want to listen to good music here," he said, referring to a group of entertainers flown in from Phnom Penh to tour villages in the area.

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GANGES: Pact to Share Water

Continued from Page 1

Thursday by Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda of India and Prime Minister Hasina Wazed of Bangladesh represents a peaceful settlement of the kind of water resources dispute that foreign policy analysts and environmentalists have predicted will create international conflicts in the coming decades as the world's population grows and becomes more urbanized.

Resolution of the long-standing dispute was a product of a good-neighbor policy of Mr. Gowda's coalition government, unconventional diplomacy that tapped a state leader as chief negotiator and Indian goodwill toward Sheikh Hasina because her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, developed close ties to Delhi as Bangladesh's first leader after East Pakistan became independent in 1971.

"Welcome her as a friend's daughter," the Asian Age newspaper urged Indians this week.

The treaty takes effect just weeks before the dry season begins in January, gradually reducing the flow of the Ganges until May, when the Himalayan snow melt and then seasonal monsoon rains replenish what India's Hindu majority regards as the river's holy waters.

"Our priority has been to establish good relations with our neighbors in South Asia," Mr. Gowda said after signing the treaty. "This is aimed at meeting the fundamental requirements of both our countries through a just and reasonable sharing of the burden of shortage."

This month, Mr. Gowda sent Chief Minister Jyoti Basu of West Bengal state, to Dhaka to discuss possible terms of a water-sharing pact with Bangladesh officials. Although some elected officials criticized the choice, Mr. Gowda's government defended Mr. Basu's role because his eastern state, where both the dam and the port of Calcutta are situated, would be affected the most once more water is released into Bangladesh.

"Mutual benefit must be the principle in shaping our bilateral relations," Sheikh Hasina said. "I am confident our agreement on sharing the waters of the Ganga will be considered by our people a fair one." She used the Hindi name for the Ganges, instead

of its Bangladeshi name, the Padma.

Over the last two decades, Sheikh Hasina's predecessors have repeatedly complained about India's hoarding of Ganges waters since the construction of the Farakka dam. Bangladesh once raised the issue in the United Nations. Bangladesh officials have said the reduced flow during the dry season has already caused a number of problems in the western part of a riverine country beset by seasonal floods and cyclones.

What was once productive farmland has turned to desert, and only sand flows in dry riverbeds of some Ganges tributaries.

Under the new agreement, Bangladesh will get slightly more water than it did under the lapsed 1977 pact. The amount had been reduced to one-fourth that level. Based on the average flow of the Ganges between 1949 and 1968, Bangladesh would also receive more water than India would retain during the dry season.

"At the lowest flow of the Ganga below Farakka, Bangladesh gets a little more," said B. G. Verghese, a water resources specialist at the Center for Policy Research, an independent research organization here. "It is above the minimum they were guaranteed earlier."

Mr. Gowda said that Bangladesh had not agreed to give India anything in return for its new-found generosity. But he held out the prospect of the goodwill generated resulting in Bangladeshi concessions on transit, immigration and other concerns of his government.

"This is a day to be remembered in Hong Kong's democratic development," the China Daily newspaper said of the choice of Tung Chee-hwa as chief executive designate of Hong Kong once Britain returns it to China July 1, 1997.

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EUROPE

House of Lords Makes Some Waves for the Doomed Yacht Britannia

By Fred Barbash
Washington Post Service

LONDON — The House of Lords awoke briefly but heroically from its slumber this week in a final plea to save the royal yacht Britannia, which is scheduled for decommissioning in August.

Members invoked Britain's sense of history, its glorious maritime past, its place in Europe and the world, and the dignity of the crown.

When that failed, they tried the balance of payments. When that failed, they contended that saving the ship would win votes.

And when that didn't work, they got ugly, with Lord Mottistone accusing the government of behaving "like a crowd of lily-livered ladies of ill repute."

In the end, however, they were met only with a lily-livered statement from the government that "no decision has been made" and that "this is a complex

issue that demands detailed study," meaning — not a chance. Or, as translated by a disappointed Britannia booster, Lord Ashbourne, in an interview: "The square root of nothing is less than nothing. Shove all."

Thus ended any real hope of salvaging HMV Britannia, the formal name of the yacht. Actually, it is not really a yacht. It is a 6,000-ton, 400-foot-long cruise ship.

Nor, strictly speaking, is it entirely royal. Although the queen's husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, has a soft spot for it, the family hardly uses it any more. Since its commissioning in 1954, it has been used more for seminars or by export boosters entertaining foreign business types or just for show.

All that was fine with the dedicated cadre of Britannia backers, who see it as a symbol of various things British.

"There are not many things we do better than anyone else in the world,"

Lord Ashbourne told the Lords on Tuesday. "But ceremonial is one. Whether it is trooping the color on Horse Guards, the Lord Chancellor and Madam Speaker greeting a foreign head of state in the Royal Gallery or Westminster Hall or the Royal Marines beating retreat on the Padang at Singapore, the precision and timing are superb."

"The royal yacht presents a wonderful opportunity to display these skills in the presence of the monarch and at prestige venues around the world."

Such sentiments have kept the ship afloat despite the enormous cost of fittings, refittings and manning by the navy.

Every year, the queen duly boards it for a ritual cruise around the Western Isles off Scotland, and every year she boards, preferring what is called "The Royal Flight" — a plane — for long-distance transportation.

Saving the Britannia is not on any

pollster's list of greatest concerns among Britons; and considering both that it needs yet another costly refit and that the image these days of the royal family has diminished, it is not a priority for the government either. In light of all this, the Defense Ministry announced in 1994 that the ship would be decommissioned.

Before she is put to rest somewhere, the Britannia is scheduled for a tour of the Far East, where she will participate in the ceremony in July in which Britain turns over Hong Kong to China.

But among the dedicated, hope remained that the money — about \$120 million — could be found to refit it once again or to help finance a new royal yacht. Politically, the dedicated are concentrated in the House of Lords, which faces no elections ever but does face growing threats of being decommissioned itself.

It was in the Lords on Tuesday night

that hope for the Britannia probably died. "Britannia is immensely important to maritime London," said Lord Amherst of Hackney. "Surely it should be possible to thoroughly refurbish, refit and revamp her."

"She is a piece of history; her very name is evocative of a noble past," said Lord Elton.

"To consign her now to the scrapyard with no successor nominated, just as government officials are straining every nerve to show the country that Britain will not be subsumed into a gray Europe but remain vibrant, individual and itself, would surely be seriously inept."

"We see the royal yacht as a national yacht which is both a status symbol for Britain and a symbol of national excellence," said Lord Ashbourne.

It could "raise the esteem in which Her Majesty and her family are held by the nation."

"We feel that if this is handled sens-

itively, it could be a real vote-winner as well as a boost to the royal family," he added.

Others made the commercial argument, pointing out that, as legend has it, foreign businessmen have invested in Britain because of the yacht.

But the government, facing an election by May, has not gotten on board.

Indeed, said Lord Mottistone, "the government, during the five or six years that I have been involved in this argument, has behaved like a crowd of lily-livered ladies of ill repute."

It fell to Earl Howe, a junior defense minister, to break the news from the government that "the world has changed greatly since Britannia entered service."

He continued: "There are a great many government departments and ministers looking at this question."

"While it might be desirable to do so, I can unfortunately give no promises."

Italy Urges Compromise In Belgrade

Compiled by Staff Writer from Europe

BELGRADE — Riot police blocked a student march in Belgrade on Thursday as Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini of Italy urged opposition parties, which are trying to drive President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia from power, to ease their demands.

Mr. Dini met Mr. Milosevic and leaders of the opposition coalition separately to try to end more than three weeks of street upheaval since disputed elections Nov. 17.

After the meetings, Mr. Dini said he had failed to overcome the impasse, adding: "Both sides have firmly reiterated their starting positions."

Still, he said, both sides "left a margin for discussion."

He did not elaborate. But well-informed sources said that the opposition was ready to compromise and agree to new local elections next year, if they were closely controlled by the international community and domestic media had free reporting rights.

Mr. Milosevic reportedly is ready to offer new elections, though he has not said so publicly.

More than 40,000 students and 100,000 coalition supporters were on the streets of the capital Thursday in a show of opposition to Mr. Milosevic, coinciding with Mr. Dini's intervention.

The police halted an attempt by the students to march from central Belgrade to a suburb where Mr. Milosevic and senior members of the government live. The students were stopped under the windows of the embassy of the United States, which has threatened Mr. Milosevic with reprisals if he crushes the demonstrations with force.

This was the second time that students have approached Mr. Milosevic's residence. They were also forced to turn back two weeks ago as they came up against a police cordon.

Although the protests have been peaceful, the atmosphere was nervous as the students retreated and more police officers appeared.

The opposition coalition contends that the government cheated it of victory in the local elections in Belgrade and other cities.

Its demonstrations have demanded that Mr. Milosevic, Serbia's virtually unchallenged ruler for nine years, should resign and that the government should recognize the opposition victory.

Mr. Dini said the opposition should rethink its objectives. "Reinstatement of the results seems to me to be something that is not on the cards as the basis for dialogue between the parties," he said. "They must find a formula around the impasse."

The opposition denied rumors it was negotiating with Mr. Milosevic. An opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, said: "The first condition is that Mr. Milosevic must respect the electoral will of the people and recognize the results of Nov. 17. After that, we are ready for dialogue."

(Reuters, AP, AFP)



WHAT IS TO BE DONE? — A statue of Lenin, who predicted that the capitalist state would wither away under communism, loomed over a thriving marketplace beside Moscow's Luzhniki stadium.

Chirac Makes TV Bid for Support

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac told the French people Thursday that a combination of old habits and new fears was holding back change in France, and he pledged to protect their security in a painful period of adjustment.

Insisting that he remained committed to his campaign pledges last year of creating jobs and cutting taxes, Mr. Chirac explained, as he has before, that he was forced to shift priorities to clear up accumulated budget deficits that stifle durable growth.

The main thrust of his comments in a 90-minute television interview was an insistence on the need for French people to reduce their dependence on the government as the sole source of social protection and the main investor and arbitrator in business.

But while pledging to proceed with privatization of state-owned enterprises, including changes at France Telecom, Mr. Chirac also promised to preserve some French utilities from free competition and to maintain some forms of welfare and job subsidies that constitute what he called the French social model.

His interview was greeted by French media as a major event, even though no major policy switch was expected. "It will be an exercise in communication, not a news event," one of Mr. Chirac's supporters predicted.

Presidential appearances carry special political weight in France, where the head of state is rarely exposed to direct questioning. Mr. Chirac, who last gave an extensive televised interview five months ago, has been urged by his supporters to try reassuring public opinion amid a tide of bad news, worsened by a resurgent threat of terrorism in Paris.

Terrorism, Mr. Chirac said, was a challenge of the type that required French people to react with solidarity behind the government.

Bringing an animated personal tone to the interview, Mr. Chirac sought to provide a human touch for the government's often halting, often brusque style and give French people a clear sense of progress in painful, often sluggish social and economic changes — in short, to pump up morale amid a spreading sense of disarray and pessimism.

While he and Prime Minister Alain

Juppe are setting endurance records for unpopularity, Mr. Chirac faces no immediate political challenge, so he was seeking to address a deeper malaise.

Pessimistic about their future, large sections of French opinion have fallen into a mood of near defiance toward leaders in government and business that threatens to leave France behind its main European neighbors in accepting cuts in state-supplied protection and adjusting to fiercer economic competition.

On a more jingoist note, Mr. Chirac

defended his commitment to a single European currency by saying that it was essential to defend France from "American hegemony" in trade.

For the last year, Mr. Chirac's policy has focused on keeping France in step with Germany in preparing for a single European currency. But the government's trouble explaining the policy has deepened skepticism among many French people about government-led calls for change.

Foreign policy questions were a minor theme in the interview, even though French diplomacy has been recently active and often controversial, particularly with Washington.

French voters generally appreciate Mr. Chirac's assertive style abroad. For example, during a recent visit to the Middle East, the president's brush with Israeli police in a Palestinian neighborhood in Jerusalem was very popular in France.

But French voters, according to polls, overwhelmingly want Mr. Chirac to come home in the sense of devoting more energy to domestic problems such as unemployment, which seems stuck at record highs in excess of 12 percent — and even higher among youth.

His own supporters have also been dismayed by his tendency to announce initiatives, then retreat when faced with the threat of labor unrest, as is happening currently with transportation workers' demands for government-funded retirement at younger ages.

Belgian Parliamentary Panel Clears Minister of Sex Charges

Agence France-Presse

BRUSSELS — A parliamentary commission cleared Deputy Prime Minister Elio di Rupo on Thursday of suspicion of pedophilia after a tense three-week review that had Belgium on the brink of a political crisis.

The decision, announced after a three-day session, said there were no grounds for prosecuting Mr. di Rupo on charges of having sex with minors.

The decision was denounced by the opposition but hailed by some cabinet members who had suggested that Mr. di Rupo was a victim of hysteria generated by an unrelated child-sex scandal that has shocked the nation since last summer.

"The commission considers that in the light of the dossiers given to Parliament, there is no evidence of his guilt, and hence there is nothing to justify an indictment of the deputy prime minister," a statement issued by the 11-member panel said.

If the panel had not cleared Mr. di Rupo, his resignation would have probably been inevitable, triggering a crisis that could have brought down Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene's center-left coalition government.

"The honor of a man has been restored after being sullied by trumped-up charges," Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt said.

The opposition, however, charged

that the panel's ruling was an effort to silence the outcry over the matter.

Mr. di Rupo had been supported throughout the investigation by Mr. Dehaene and the French-speaking Socialist Party to which he belongs.

On Monday, the same commission cleared him in part, following a recommendation by a court of appeal. But it agreed to examine supplementary evidence from the Brussels prosecutor, Andre Van Oudenhoove, that had been submitted too late to be taken into account by judges in their initial ruling. Commission members said the evidence consisted mainly of anonymous testimony, unsigned letters and a videocassette in which "no minister appears."

Mr. di Rupo has consistently denied allegations that he had sex with a minor. The claim was made by a youth, Oliver Trusnach, now in prison awaiting trial on theft charges. He has been described by his mother and friends as prone to inventing stories about himself.

Some have said that Mr. di Rupo, an acknowledged homosexual, became a target of courts facing parliamentary scrutiny over allegations that police and magistrates bungled the investigation into a child kidnapping and rape scandal last summer involving Marc Dutroux.

Some of Mr. di Rupo's supporters have charged that Mr. Trusnach was promised leniency for his allegations.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Some Russian Miners Balk

MOSCOW — Union leaders ordered a halt Thursday to a nationwide coal miners' strike after the government promised to pay back wages, but some miners refused to return.

The leaders of the Independent Union of Coal Miners said late Wednesday that they were suspending the strike, which began Dec. 3, after Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin vowed to settle wage debts by Dec. 27. Some of the miners have not been paid since June. The government conceded last week that the miners were owed \$9 billion.

Strike committees in the Rostov, Gukov and Tula regions of western and southern Russia, representing 70,000 workers at 43 pits, decided to stay on strike until they received their wages, the RIA news agency said.

At its high point, union leaders said, about 400,000 miners in nearly 200 pits and open-cast mines were on strike. The strike has wavered since then, with some miners going back to work, partly to maintain pit safety.

The union says government debt to the industry is more than 2 trillion rubles (\$362 million) and that even bigger company debts have led to huge delays in wages. (Reuters)

French Arrest More Militants

PARIS — French police said they rounded up nine suspected Muslim militants across the country on Thursday, more than a week after a bomb ripped through a Paris commuter train and killed four people.

The swoop, the second this week ordered by an anti-terrorism magistrate, Laurence Le Vert, was not directly linked to the train blast but focused on a network suspected of planting bombs in France last year, the police said.

The nine were detained for questioning in the Paris area, in

the northern city of Lille, and in the Mediterranean port city of Marseille. Searches of several buildings yielded nothing.

All 14 people detained Tuesday in dawn raids in the Paris region were released within hours, and the police said they had made little progress. The wave of attacks last year killed eight people and wounded more than 160.

A police spokesman said the operation had "no direct link" with the attack last week at the Port-Royal station, which investigators believe was carried out, like the 1995 bombings, by Islamic guerrillas angry about French backing for Algeria.

Greek Diplomats Protest a Tax

ATHENS — Diplomats shut the doors at 150 Greek embassies, consulates and trade offices around the world Thursday to protest their government's plans to tax their foreign-earned incomes.

No date was set for an end to the strike, which will prevent people in countries outside the European Union and North America from getting visas to visit Greece.

People in neighboring Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia are expected to be hardest hit by the strike. Hundreds of people from those Balkan countries apply for visas on a daily basis.

Foreign Ministry operations in Greece were also reduced to a minimum.

Diplomats are protesting plans to levy a 15 percent tax on income they earn abroad, saying the measure would cut into already low salaries.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said he abolished the diplomats' tax-free incomes to increase state revenues.

In past years, diplomats posted to such capitals as Tokyo have asked to moonlight as waiters because, they said, their salaries do not allow them a decent living. (AP)

APR 13 1997

INTERNATIONAL

Pentagon Chiefs Rethinking Feasibility of 2-War Scenario

Strategy, Structure and Budget Seen in Conflict

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON—America's military leaders are heading into a major review of the structure of their forces in a state of disagreement over one of the Pentagon's central assumptions: that the United States needs to be able to fight two regional wars nearly at once.

This two-war scenario has served as the Pentagon's key measure for how best to size and shape U.S. forces since the Soviet Union collapsed. It assumes that the U.S. military might have to fight middle-sized wars against two opponents, such as Iraq and North Korea, "nearly simultaneously."

But with defense spending likely to remain flat or perhaps decline into the next decade, and with U.S. forces increasingly involved in time-consuming peacekeeping operations, the notion that the Pentagon can continue to prepare for two regional wars has come under attack as no longer feasible.

General Ronald Fogleman, the air force chief of staff, has emerged as the most vocal critic of the current standard. In meetings with other military service chiefs, he has argued that the cost of maintaining the force structure necessary to fight two major regional conflicts is too high. Staying with the two-war objective, he worries, will undercut the credibility of any revised blueprint the Pentagon puts forward next spring at the conclusion of its policy study, called the Quadrennial Defense Review.

Nonetheless, the majority view among senior Defense Department officials remains that the United States has little alternative to the two-war plan, given the real prospect of simultaneous conflicts breaking out in the Gulf region and on the Korean Peninsula.

Reflecting this position, General Dennis Reimer, the army chief of staff, has told

fellow four-star commanders, for instance, that the United States must continue to be prepared to handle contingencies in both parts of Asia. Switching to some kind of one-war-plus scenario, General Reimer contends, would present the United States with the diplomatic dilemma of choosing which potential war gets secondary status and explaining why to coalition partners.

Discussions among the chiefs on the two-war issue have yet to come to a head, according to sources familiar with the debate, but the outcome will be crucial for military plans and Pentagon buying decisions in President Bill Clinton's second term. "It's a fundamental issue," said a senior military officer taking part in the review. "I think we're all trying to figure out how to retain the force the nation needs without all the baggage associated with two major regional conflicts."

For more than three years, Mr. Clinton's administration has had difficulty making a credible case that U.S. forces are ready to meet the two-war objective, first set under President George Bush.

"We currently have a strategy that can't be sustained by the force structure and a force structure that can't be sustained by the budget," said Andrew F. Krepinevich Jr., head of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, an independent Washington research organization.

But senior military planners on the Pentagon's joint staff who have examined alternative approaches continue to favor the two-war model. Pentagon officials are mindful of a frustrated attempt in 1993 by Mr. Clinton's first defense secretary, Les Aspin, to break from the two-war approach and draft a plan based on defeating one enemy while holding the other at bay temporarily—an option dubbed "win-hold-win." This plan proved politically unsupportable.

In contrast to the Penta-

gon's continued emphasis on preparing to wage large regional wars, U.S. troops have been called on increasingly, not for combat operations, but for peacekeeping and humanitarian actions. Such heightened demand for U.S. military involvement in what once were considered unconventional missions has called into question whether American forces are properly configured and equipped to deal with post-Cold War life.

Also driving the Pentagon to reconfigure forces is the changing nature of warfare. Advances in long-range precision weaponry, radar-evading capabilities and integrated information technologies argue in favor of stepped-up investment in next-generation systems, at the expense perhaps of some of the active-duty lineup of 10 army divisions, 15 air force wings and 350 navy ships.

These issues are at the center of the new review. So far, commanders have appeared resistant to more reductions in troop strength, contending that even at existing numbers, U.S. forces have been stretched by the surge in peace operations.

"Everyone knows that what we eventually decide about the two-war issue will be one of the key elements on which we'll be graded and assessed," said a civilian defense official involved in the review process. "The debate now in the Pentagon is going on at two levels."

"One is the requirement itself: Should we keep the two-conflict approach? The other is: If we keep it, how might we structure forces differently to meet it?"

There is more than one way for the United States to appear ready to fight two regional conflicts nearly simultaneously. By changing some of the provisions in the current blueprint, defense planners may be able to allow for more adjustments in the active-duty force.



Kenneth Clarke, Britain's chancellor of the Exchequer, enjoying a cigar break at the talks in Dublin.



EUROPE: Hopes Rise on Euro

Continued from Page 1

resistance elsewhere in Europe, and notably in France, where politicians fear that the spending restraints demanded by Bonn will worsen Europe's already-high unemployment and provoke social unrest. Those concerns reached a peak in the last three weeks when former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and two senior officials of the Bank of France called for European currencies to fall against the dollar to stimulate growth.

President Jacques Chirac sounded an optimistic note in a television interview in Paris, although he left open the possibility that EU leaders would simply call for continued work on detailed budget rules.

"I am sure we'll get there, maybe even tomorrow in Dublin," he said. He also rejected calls for a devaluation of the franc against the Deutsche mark, which Mr. Giscard had suggested, saying it would provoke a "rupture of the Franco-German partnership."

Although the dispute has revealed a gap in perceptions about financial and monetary issues between Bonn and other European capitals, EU officials said there was strong political pressure to resolve the dispute and maintain the momentum toward the planned 1999 launching of the single currency.

Officials fear that a failure to resolve the dispute could raise new doubts about the single currency and unsettle financial markets.

Because the single currency is at the core of Europe's plans for deeper integration, a failure in Dublin could complicate negotiations on EU reform and delay the membership ambitions of East European countries.

Monetary union is "the defining moment of European union," said Peter Sutherland, the head of Goldman, Sachs & Co.'s European operations and a former EU commissioner.

"It's the acid test of whether Europe is going to be a largely intergovernmental structure of independent nation states or whether it is go-

ing to deepen integration under a supranational banner." All EU countries have agreed on the principle of a stability pact that would impose fines on single-currency countries that run a budget deficit in excess of 3 percent of gross domestic product, the ceiling set in the Treaty on European Union signed in Maastricht, Netherlands.

The Maastricht treaty, however, allows fines to be suspended in "exceptional and temporary" circumstances. Germany, which fears that its partners will cry for relief at the first sign of economic difficulty, has proposed to limit exceptions to cases of severe recession, defined as a drop in national output of 1.5 percent or more. Bonn's aim also is to make sanctions nearly automatic.

Exceptions "must be defined as narrowly as possible," Mr. Waigel told the German Parliament on Thursday.

France has led the campaign for greater leeway, rejecting the idea of a rigid formula and insisting that finance ministers reserve the right to decide whether to impose fines.

U.K. Delays Move to Cull Cattle

Agence France-Presse

LONDON — Britain has delayed a decision on whether to proceed with a selective cull of cattle judged most at risk from "mad cow" disease until early next week, the Ministry of Agriculture said Thursday.

Prime Minister John Major discussed the issue with his ministers Thursday but failed to reach an agreement, the ministry said.

Britain agreed in June to slaughter 147,000 cattle as part of a deal for the lifting of the European Union's worldwide ban on British beef exports. But Mr. Major froze the agreement Sept. 20, calling it unnecessary in light of evidence suggesting existing measures would eradicate "mad cow" disease from the British herd by 2001.

TRADE: High-Tech Pact Forged

Continued from Page 1

United States, Japan, Canada and the 15 member nations of the EU. Among these countries were Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, South Korea, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland and Taiwan.

Malaysia, which plays a key role as a producer of information technology products, is staying out of the deal for now, but is thought likely to join in the future. India, which has high tariffs while producing large amounts of software itself, has also not committed itself to the pact.

The success of the WTO meeting was not limited to the information technology accord. The negotiators also made significant progress in separate talks aimed at improving market access for providers of basic telecommunications services.

In addition, ministers from 127 nations reached agree-

ment late Thursday night on compromise language that will set the agenda for discussion of new trade issues about transparency in government procurement, common rules on cross-border investment, and anti-trust policy.

Delegates here even appeared to have found language on the contentious issue of linking labor standards and trade, which earlier in the week had threatened to open a schism between industrialized and developing nations.

The Mexican trade minister, Hermilio Blanco Mendoza, said in an interview that the compromise formula had pleased low-wage developing countries by recognizing the importance of the International Labor Organization in setting labor standards.

He said, "The draft also rejects the use of labor standards for protectionist purposes, which is a good thing."

"We would have liked to have had stronger language," said Economics Minister Guenther Rexrodt of Germany, "but we didn't want to provoke developing countries. We have to be realistic."

Meanwhile, Long Yungtu, the assistant Chinese trade minister and an observer at the WTO meeting, seemed to criticize the United States on Thursday as an obstacle to Beijing's bid for WTO membership.

He told delegates here that "the accession of applicants to the WTO has been slowed down due to political considerations and the excessive demand for immediate commercial benefits."

Commenting on the information technology deal, Aaron Cross, an IBM executive who chairs the U.S. Information Technology Agreement Coalition, said, "We are very encouraged and we applaud the leadership of all the Quad countries and the spirit of engagement by the Asian countries."

Mr. Cross said the average tariffs on products covered by the accord amounted to about 3 percent in the United States, the EU, Japan and Canada—the Quad countries.

Ms. Barshefsky said Thursday that while all tariffs would be eliminated by 2000, it had been decided to leave it to "technical level" officials to work out details next month in Geneva of the precise dates for phasing out duties on the nearly 300 products contained in the high-tech accord.

FLAP: French-U.S. Tensions Rise Over 'Snub'

Continued from Page 1

would take place, that Mr. de Charette was absent from the room," the official said. The official told Reuters that other prominent NATO foreign ministers were also absent. He declined to identify them. Mr. de Charette had to leave the room to address a news conference, the official said.

A top State Department official who witnessed the incident confirmed that Mr. de Charette rose and walked out as Mr. Solana was paying tribute to Mr. Christopher.

The official, John Kornblum, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, also said that Gerard Errera, the French delegate to NATO, then took Mr. de Charette's place, turned his back to the ministers, and chatted with an aide as Mr. Solana continued to speak.

Mr. Kornblum said that Mr. Christopher turned to him and said, "Did you notice that De Charette was the only person who did not bother to say anything nice about me?"

A French source said that he had no information on the events involving Mr. de Charette and Mr. Errera, which also had been outlined in the Post article.

An unnamed French official, quoted by Agence France-Presse, said that Mr. de Charette had in fact left the NATO hall at the end of the regular meeting, along with some other ministers, "and not the least important of them."

Speaking cautiously of U.S.-French relations in general, the official said, "We sometimes have our disagreements," but, "on the whole, France is a NATO ally."

A French official, speaking anonymously, could not confirm reports that the French minister had been the only one at the meeting not to congratulate Mr. Christopher, who is to retire next month.

The alleged French failure to pay any compliment to Mr. Christopher, according to re-

ports in The Washington Post and the Financial Times of London, deeply irritated American diplomats.

The Post quoted an unnamed senior U.S. official as calling it "an incredible display of petulant behavior."

That appeared to be what most angered American diplomats, with Mr. Christopher's tenure in its final weeks.

In Brussels, Mr. Solana's office issued a statement that the French distributed as confirmation of their version but which, on close reading, did not resolve the confusion.

It said that "Minister de Charette did not leave the room at any moment during the lunch." It did not address events after the formal ending of the lunch.

If the tiff may have been sparked by a misunderstanding over language, venue or timing, however, the fact that it came up at all appears to reflect the tenderness and fragility of U.S.-French relations.

Despite apparently close personal relations between President Bill Clinton and President Jacques Chirac, the two countries have been accumulating differences over a growing series of disputes, most recently over the leadership of the United Nations.

Mr. Burns noted Thursday that at the recent NATO meeting, every nation but France approved of a U.S.-proposed initiative for an Atlantic Partnership Council, to include NATO and its former adversaries in the East bloc.

France, he said, had reservations, "and Minister de Charette enunciated those reservations."

The two countries have also exchanged sharp words over the restructuring of the NATO military command, with France insisting that a European should now be placed in charge of the alliance's Southern Command, headed since 1949 by an American.

The United States has shown no willingness to compromise on the point.

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BALLY
SINCE 1861

SPEND: \$4,000 Bags Hot in a Luxury Boom

Continued from Page 1

reminiscent of the late 1980s. "In the '80s there was a progressive buildup of wealth and the need to flaunt it, whether it be a wine collection or your cuff links," said Isaac Lagnado, publisher of Tactical Retail Monitor.

But corporate downsizing, the savings and loan debacle and fortunes lost in real estate put spending on hold for a lot of high-earning people. "There was sort of an austerity and almost embarrassment at flaunting prosperity," Mr. Lagnado said.

But memories are short, and consumer confidence has rebounded. Travco's World Tours of Newport Beach, California, for instance, this year sold all 84 seats on a \$38,000-a-person world tour six months in advance. In fact, about 160 travel agencies that specialize in luxury travel—defined as trips in which

spending per day is at least \$350—booked more than \$300 million in such trips for American travelers last year, according to their marketing organization, API Travel Consultants. The amount, which does not include airfare, is a 35 percent increase from 1994 and a 130 percent increase in the last five years.

At Tiffany & Co., the Atlas line of jewelry introduced last year, which includes items costing up to \$19,000, has become the company's most successful product introduction at a time when sales of expensive jewelry in general are on the increase.

There is a waiting list of up to three months for \$400 gray flannel pants by the fashion house Prada. That is indicative of the recent increase in apparel sales overall, driven in part by designer labels and led by recent interest in accessories such as Gucci belts and Hermes scarves.

Consumers with household incomes of \$60,000 and up increased spending on apparel 11.1 percent last year—more than double the increase in spending the year before—while those with household incomes of \$40,000 to \$59,999 decreased spending 4.7 percent, according to the NPD Group, a research group.

Shoppers in the \$25,000 to \$39,999 income category decreased spending 2.4 percent, while those with household incomes of \$15,000 to \$24,999 reported virtually no change in spending. Those with household incomes below \$15,000 increased spending on apparel 1.7 percent.

Luxury cars—starting at about \$30,000—are hot, including European brands such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi. American sales of all those brands peaked in the mid-1980s, then plunged before recovering in recent years.

British Deny They Arrested Sinn Fein Chief

Reuters

BELFAST — British security sources denied Thursday that Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, had been arrested.

Sinn Fein said earlier that Mr. Adams and a party colleague, Gerry Kelly, had been detained and "generally harassed" by British soldiers near Banbridge in County Down, south of Belfast, as they returned to Belfast from a party meeting.

Northern Ireland police declined to comment, saying: "It's not our policy to discuss security matters."

But a security source said of Mr. Adams and Mr. Kelly, "They were never arrested and are not currently detained."

INTERNATIONAL

Rwandans Fleeing
Camps in Tanzania

Reuters
NGARA, Tanzania — Up to 320,000 Rwandan refugees have abandoned their camps in northwestern Tanzania, rejecting a plan to repatriate them to Rwanda by the end of the year, United Nations officials said Thursday.

On the other side of Rwanda, in Zaire, where as many as half a million Rwandan refugees may be adrift in equatorial forests, Zairian rebels declared a unilateral cease-fire in their campaign to overthrow the government in Kinshasa.

"Because of much pressure from abroad, we have stopped," Laurent Kabila, head of the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo (Zaire), said in Goma.

In Tanzania, UN officials said two camps that had held more than 290,000 refugees on Wednesday were now almost empty, apparently because Hutu extremist militiamen had intimidated the refugees into refusing to follow the repatriation plan.

UN refugee agency officials said 35,000 people abandoned other camps at Kitale, Lukole and Keza overnight and headed southeast in hope of reaching Zambia and Malawi.

About 15,000 refugees fled earlier in the week from camps close to the Ugandan border. About 560 of them crossed the Kigera river by canoe to reach Uganda.

The exodus started on a small scale Sunday and began to steamroll as word spread through the camps that refugees in other areas had headed into the bush.

Members of the Hutu militia do not want to go home for fear of prosecution or reprisals for the massacre of Rwandan Tutsis in 1994. They want other refugees to stay with them, believing that there is strength in numbers.

The mass exodus Thursday brought to about 320,000 the number of refugees who have fled. That is more than half the 540,000 Rwandans in the 13 Tanzanian camps.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had hoped that it and the Tanzanians could persuade the

refugees to go home willingly, following the example of more than 600,000 who have gone home from Zaire since mid-November.

Instead, the plan seems to have backfired. It may end in bands of Rwandan refugees wandering across the Tanzanian bush, just as others are in the forests of Zaire.

The refugees in Zaire left their camps in October after Mr. Kabila's rebel movement, backed by the Rwandan Army, went to war against the Zairian government.

The rebels, many of them Zairians of Rwandan Tutsi origin, have seized a string of towns and villages close to Zaire's eastern borders, but their campaign seems to have lost momentum.

Mr. Kabila said Thursday that as part of the cease-fire the advancing rebels had stopped short of the towns of Walikale, west of Goma, and Bunia, north of Goma on the Ugandan border.

"We want them to negotiate instead of calling in friends and mercenaries," he added, referring to Zairian officials. He said the war "can continue if there is not a clear indication from the international community and the gang in power in Kinshasa to say they are willing to surrender or to start negotiations."

The rebels have declared a unilateral cease-fire before, but Zaire has previously rejected negotiations.

In Tanzania, the latest camp abandoned was Benaco, which, with an original population of 180,000, had been the biggest camp. Judith Melby, spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency, said the camp was now almost empty.

In Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, a spokeswoman for the UN World Food Program said it was likely that smaller camps would follow suit.

Julie Johnson, a UN spokeswoman in Ngara, said that the second big camp, at Lumasi, which had a population of 113,000, was 80 percent abandoned.

An international aid worker who visited Kitale on Thursday said refugees were leaving en masse, and he described a confused situation.

Rawlings Re-election
In Ghana Judged Fair

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, who during 17 years has taken power through two military coups and one election, has been re-elected, the Election Commission declared.

Mr. Rawlings defeated a strong opposition challenge to win a second four-year term, and his party won 130 of the 200 seats in Parliament, the commission announced in Accra, the capital.

In a country where political power often has been wrested in military takeovers and doubtful elections, the vote Saturday was conducted fairly, according to preliminary assessments by Ghanaian and foreign observers.

The results released Wednesday showed Mr. Rawlings, 49, taking 57 percent of the vote to 40 percent for John Kufuor, a lawyer and businessman. Opposition parties, led by the two-party coalition that nominated Mr. Kufuor, won 65 legislative seats, giving Ghana its first significant legislative opposition in years.

While the election appears in many ways to advance

Ghana's efforts to build a stable democracy, voting patterns signal a new danger of ethnic tension, political analysts in Accra said.

"This election represents a consolidation of democracy," said E. Gyimah-Boadi, a political scientist at Accra's Institute for Economic Affairs.

"But at the same time, it announces that Ghana has a serious ethnic divide" and it "risks pushing us toward ethnic conflict."

The election itself appeared to illustrate how vigorously Ghanaians have embraced democracy. On Saturday, 77 percent of registered voters turned out. Afterward, people proudly displayed thumbs painted in indelible ink to show that they had voted.

Thousands slept in the streets outside polling stations and election offices to help guard against the theft of ballot boxes.

In a rare step in West Africa, the election was conducted by a demonstrably independent Election Commission, and several nonpartisan civic organizations deployed about 4,000 trained election monitors to check the commission's work.

World Court Accepts Suit
By Iran on '87 U.S. Raids

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE — World Court judges accepted jurisdiction Thursday in a U.S.-Iran dispute over the destruction by the United States of three oil platforms in 1987 and 1988, during the Iran-Iraq war.

Both sides will now prepare detailed legal arguments to back up their cases before oral arguments begin.

No date was set for the oral hearings.

Tehran brought the case at the International Court of Justice in The Hague to seek unspecified damages.

The Iranian oil platforms were destroyed in 1987 and 1988, when the United States was protecting oil shipments in the Gulf.

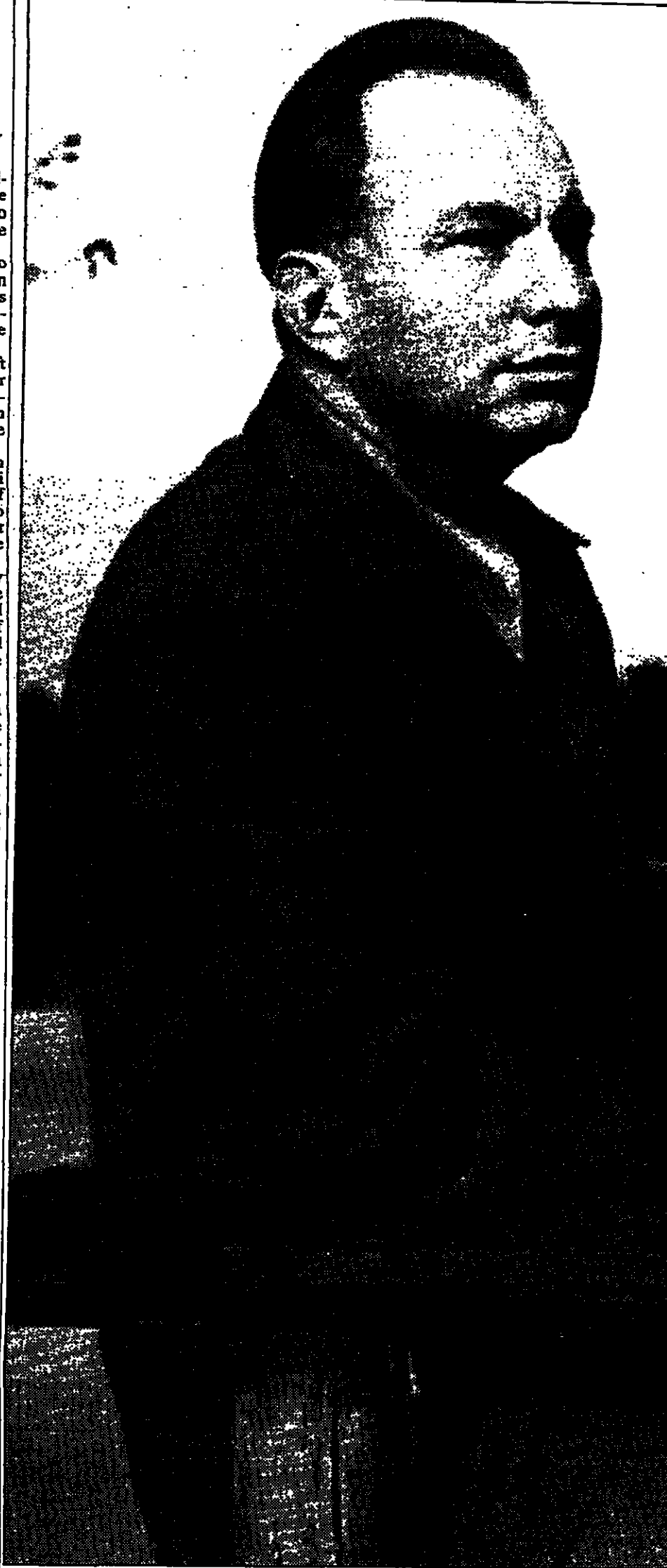
The United States says it retaliated after U.S. crewmen were injured in missile and mine attacks that it attributed to Iran.

The Iranian representative, Mohammed Zahedin-Labbaf, hailed the court decision as a victory for his country.

An acting U.S. State Department legal adviser, Mike Matheson, said, however, that "the court's decision today in no way suggests that it agrees with Iran on the merits of the case."

The United States had argued that the 15-judge international court had no jurisdiction because a 1955 treaty cited by Iran in its application to the court did not cover such attacks.

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L. Ron
Hubbard:
One of the
most
acclaimed
and
widely read
authors
of
all time.

Known across the globe as the founder of Dianetics and Scientology, L. Ron Hubbard is a man whose professional accomplishments span 21 different fields, including photography, art, education, music and cinematography.

Above all else, he is celebrated as a writer.

His writings cover all popular genres, including adventure, mystery, western, fantasy and romance. He was one of the influential authors of the 1930s — along with Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein and Frederik Pohl — credited with shaping the future of science fiction.

He has published more than 60 million words, including novels, short stories and articles, as well as poetry, lyrics and Hollywood movie scripts. More than 116 million copies of his works have been sold — with 35 of his books national best sellers.

Underlying all of his works is the purpose to learn more about and to help mankind. His writings funded his research into the mind and spirit of man, leading to the discoveries that became Dianetics and Scientology.

His first broadly published work in this field, *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, exploded into the world in May 1950 and soared to the top of best seller lists. With more than 17 million copies now sold, it continues to appear on best seller lists up to the present day: a feat unparalleled in publishing history.

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Herald Tribune

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NATO Expansion?

The Clinton administration is barreling toward an eastward expansion of NATO by the end of the decade without adequate discussion with the American people and Congress. Although the issue seems remote and abstract to many citizens, and tends to come larded with the highfalutin terminology of the foreign policy priesthood, it is exceedingly important. NATO expansion would involve a crucial political and military realignment of Europe, the continent still most directly linked to the national security of America. The consequences are likely to be great and unpredictable.

Propelled by American leadership, NATO this week essentially committed itself to expansion. Bill Clinton and leaders of the other NATO members will meet in July in Madrid to issue an invitation to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, plus possibly one or two other Central European countries, but that is now a formality. The White House hopes that enlargement can be consummated by 1999, the 50th anniversary of the alliance.

NATO expansion, among other things, would commit American conventional and nuclear forces to the defense of newly independent European nations and require the costly modernization of their armed services. It would move the alliance's boundaries considerably closer to Russia, a step sure to strengthen nationalists and Communists in an insecure country still traumatized by two German invasions in this century.

Fortunately, as part of an international treaty, none of this can happen without the approval of a two-thirds majority in the U.S. Senate, as well as the endorsement of the Parliaments of the alliance's 15 European members. There is still time for Americans and their representatives in Congress to consider the implications of NATO expansion and to slow the stampede until the potential consequences can be more carefully assessed and the need for enlargement more clearly demonstrated.

The administration has dressed up its plans with rhetoric about consolidating democracy and free markets in the lands of the former Soviet empire, but it has yet to make a good case why a Cold War military alliance, rather than the European Union, is the best way to secure those aims.

The more credible case for expansion rests on more practical principles, namely maintaining a strong U.S. leadership role in Europe and preserving an alliance that could defend against an aggressive and militarily resurgent Russia in the future. The Russian threat, painfully familiar in Eastern Europe, is the visceral and understandable reason countries like Poland and Hungary seek sanctuary in NATO.

But planning the future of Europe with blueprints from the Cold War is a mistake. With a shattered, impoverished military and faltering economy, Russia presents no military threat to its neighbors now and will not for years to come. The prospect of NATO expansion, if anything, is likely to push Moscow toward precisely the kind of rearmament that the West fears. Diverting money and resources back to defense is just what the Russian economy does not need as it struggles to shake off decades of deadening Communist management.

By anchoring NATO expansion on the needs of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, as important as those countries are, the administration has obscured the most important issue for European peace and prosperity. That issue is the consolidation of reform in Russia. The timing, shape and even need for NATO expansion should be determined by how much it helps or hinders Russia's reform. Washington has not given nearly enough attention to that question.

Responsible Russian leaders, anxious to avoid the potentially destructive domestic consequences of NATO expansion, are now talking less about trying to block enlargement than about modifying it in ways that do not upset the political and economic balance in Russia. Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian foreign minister, told his NATO counterparts this week that Moscow, for starters, wants guarantees that NATO nuclear forces will not be stationed in Eastern Europe and assurance that Russia will have a working partnership with the alliance.

These overtures, which the administration welcomed, will require careful study and hard negotiation. They are just the kinds of issues that Americans should be weighing in the months ahead. The debate should not be driven by artificial deadlines and a manufactured sense of urgency. Tinkering with the balance of power on a continent that has been the site of so much conflict and violence should be done with great caution and a strong sense of humility.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Scandals in Japan

For years, people joked that Japan, seemingly the quintessential capitalist success story, was in fact the world's only successful socialist country. This was because the government, and in particular its vaunted bureaucracy, played a pivotal role in directing industry, allocating credit and making other decisions that in America are largely left to market forces. Thanks in no small part to the skill and integrity of Japan's bureaucrats, who enjoyed great prestige in their society, the system worked well, and many other Asian countries sought to emulate it.

A succession of recent scandals touching Japan's bureaucracy, unprecedented in their scope, has made clear that this blend of socialist-capitalism is no longer viable. The model that made Japan such a formidable competitor in the global economy can no longer keep Japan competitive.

Recently re-elected Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has acknowledged as much in calling for fundamental reform, but whether he can implement those reforms—against the opposition of, among others, Japan's bureaucrats—remains an open question.

Last week the top-ranking bureaucrat in the Ministry of Health and Welfare was arrested on charges of accepting more than a half-million dollars in bribes, as well as two cars and a country club membership worth \$144,000. The alleged bribe was a nursing home developer who had received millions in government subsidies.

A separate scandal, involving an oil dealer recently arrested for tax evasion, threatened to engulf two of Japan's traditionally most prestigious and powerful ministries, Finance and International Trade and Industry (MITI), where dozens of bureaucrats were said to have accepted favors.

And these scandals followed close on the heels of an earlier one involving bureaucrats' protection of companies that sold HIV-contaminated blood.

This is not the first time Japanese

bureaucrats have been charged with taking bribes, but past scandals tended to focus on politicians. Mr. Hashimoto, proclaiming himself "overcome with indignation," has now called for "tough discipline" in government.

But that will not solve his problem. Japan is simply proving, albeit belatedly, that the more economic power a government amasses for itself, the more opportunities it opens for corruption. What Japan needs is to remove its bureaucrats from a position of making decisions that are better left to consumers and investors.

Such reform would not just lessen the possibility for corruption, it would also give U.S. companies a fairer shot at Japan's market and make Japan's economy—which has not enjoyed much growth lately—more efficient and dynamic. The prime minister recognized that when, recently, he called for radical reform of Japan's financial markets, to take the bureaucrats out of the business of deciding who gets credit.

But as much as Japan overall would benefit from deregulation and liberalization, many powerful sectors would suffer—farmers, shopkeepers, protected industries and, of course, the bureaucratic mandarins themselves. If they succeed in blocking reform, Japan is unlikely to extend its success beyond the current century.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

'Inevitable' Child Labor

Asian leaders [argue] that what are seen as "abuses" in the Western mind represent the inevitable by-products of a stage in development that the West went through a century ago. A child factory worker might not be ideal, they say, but it is preferable to the alternatives most of them face: prostitution, picking through garbage cans, etc.

—Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong).

In Fact, Russians Are Deep in Terrible Tragedy

By Stephen F. Cohen

PRINCETON, New Jersey—A terrible national tragedy has been unfolding in Russia in the 1990s, but we will hear little if anything about it in American commentary this month, five years after the end of the Soviet Union.

Instead we will be told that Russia's "transition to a free market economy and democracy" has progressed remarkably, despite some bumps in the road. Evidence alleged to support that view will include massive privatization, emerging financial markets, low inflation, "stabilization," an impending economic "takeoff," last summer's presidential election, a sitting Parliament and a "free press."

Few commentators will explain that Russia's new private sector is dominated by former but still intact Soviet monopolies seized by ex-Communist officials who have become the core of a semi-criminalized business class; that inflation is being restrained by holding back salaries owed to tens of millions of needy workers and other employees in the state sector; that a boom has been promised for years while the economy continues to plunge into a depression greater than America's in the 1930s; that President Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign was one of the most corrupt in recent European history; that the Parliament has no real powers and the appellate court little independence from the presidency; and that Russia's market and its national television are not truly competitive or free but substantially controlled by the same financial oligarchy whose representatives now sit in the Kremlin as chiefs of the Yeltsin regime.

In human terms, that is not the worst of it. For the great majority of families, still call "reform" and seem to think is the only desirable kind. Fragments of Russia's unprecedented, cruel and perilous collapse are reported, but not the full dimensions of insider privatization, impoverishment, disintegration of the middle classes, corrupt consequences of the Chechen war or official corruption and mendacity.

Why don't American commentators lament the plight of the Russian people as they did so persistently when they were Soviet people? The United States has thou-

sands of professed specialists on Russia. Why have so few tried to tell the full story of post-Soviet Russia? Indeed, why, despite incomparably greater access to information, do most reporters, pundits and scholars tell us less than is really essential about Russia today than they did when it was part of the Soviet Union?

There are, it seems, several reasons, all of them related to the American condition rather than to Russia's. As during the Cold War, most U.S. media and academic commentators think (or speak) within the parameters of Washington's policies toward Russia. Since 1991, Russia's purportedly successful transition and the U.S. "strategic" role in it have been the basic premise of White House and Congressional policy.

American business people, big foundations and academics involved with Russia also have their own stake in the "transition." For the business community, it is the prospect of profits; for foundations, another frontier of endowed social engineering; for academia, a new paradigm ("transitionology") for securing funds, jobs and tenure.

Confronted with the fact that the results of the so-called transition continue to worsen and not improve, most of its American promoters still blame the "legacy of communism" rather than their prescriptions, or insist that robber baron capitalism will surely reform itself there as it did here, even though the circumstances are fundamentally different.

More generally, Americans have always been in Russia, for ideological and psychological reasons, primarily what they sought there. This time it is a happy outcome of the end of Soviet

communism and of the West's "great victory" in the Cold War.

How many of us who doubt that outcome, who think that the world may be less safe because of what has happened in the former Soviet Union, who believe that ordinary Russians (even those designated "elderly" Communist voters) have been made to suffer unduly and unjustly, who understand that there were less costly and more humane ways to reform Russia than have been Mr. Yeltsin's shock measures—how many of us wish to say such things publicly, knowing that we will be accused of nostalgia for the Soviet Union or even of pro-communism? Crude McCarthyism has passed, but not the maligning of anyone who challenges mainstream orthodoxies about Soviet or post-Soviet Russia.

And the presumed "transition to a free market economy and democracy" is today's orthodoxy.

Does it matter what Americans say about Russia? Those of us who oppose the Clinton administration's missionary complicity in the "transition," and its insistence that Russia "stay the course," may wish that the United States would say and do less.

In one respect, however, it matters greatly. Eventually, today's Russian children will ask what America felt and said during these tragic times for their parents and grandparents, and they will shape their relations with our own children and grandchildren accordingly.

The writer is professor of Russian studies at Princeton University; his books include "Rethinking the Soviet Experience." He contributed this to the International Herald Tribune.

Milosevic the Tyrant Is Bad News, So Stop Propping Him Up

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON—Two snapshots of the crisis over Slobodan Milosevic's tyranny:

In Belgrade, one of the thousands of peaceful demonstrators, Dejan Bulatovic, held up an effigy of President Milosevic as a convict. Police arrested him, beat him with clubs, jammed a baton up his rectum, put a rifle in his mouth and threatened to shoot, and then put him in an unheated cell with the window fixed open to serve a 25-day sentence for disorderly conduct.

In Brussels, the North Atlantic Council said it was "disappointed that the Serbian authorities have ignored the calls of the international community to respect... democratic principles." Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he hoped Mr. Milosevic would be as "pragmatic and flexible" as he was at the Dayton peace conference last year.

Those two scenes tell us that America and its allies still do not understand the Milosevic menace, or do not want to understand. He makes clear that he has no intention of giving up a gram of his illegitimate power, and the West harrumphs.

Mr. Milosevic has been playing games, with his own people and the world, over his brazen

annulment of opposition victories in municipal elections. He hinted that he would restore the real results. He told a foreign visitor that he would respect what the Serbian Supreme Court decided about the issue. Then his stooges on the court upheld his cooking of the elections.

The British ambassador in

Belgrade, Ivor Roberts, allowed himself to be dilled by Mr. Milosevic. He tried to be an intermediary between the Serbian president and the opposition. Mr. Milosevic signaled that he would play, then spurned the ambassador's efforts at compromise.

By now anyone should see

that he is not interested in compromise when it comes to his power. He is a classic dictator, reluctant to yield even a little to democracy and the rule of law because he fears that his whole network of corruption and intimidation would unravel.

Rigidity has its dangers. Nicolae Ceausescu rejected any change in his Communist dictatorship of Romania until a

popular revolution ended in his execution.

Like Mr. Ceausescu, it appears, Mr. Milosevic is out of touch with reality. Reports from Serbia say that he has no sense of the resentment against him in a country where there is 50 percent unemployment and per capita income has fallen by more than half in the years of his rule.

The U.S. State Department, to its credit, has lately taken a tougher line on Mr. Milosevic. When he shut down the independent radio station B-92, the Voice of America took the bold step of broadcasting B-92's reports. Faced with an effective countermeasure, Mr. Milosevic let B-92 go back on the air.

Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said: "We don't share the conventional wisdom that somehow we need Milosevic more than he needs us." But those strong words do not seem to be reflected in policy.

The West still treats Mr. Milosevic as a guarantor of peace in Bosnia. He was crucial at Dayton, but it has to be understood that his motive there, after the failure of the genocidal war he instigated, was simply to stay in power. He is not at all a key to maintaining the peace now.

What can be done to end a tyranny that could destabilize the Balkans? The first thing is to make clear that America is not going back to Mr. Milosevic as usual. That means ending the pretense that he is to be valued as a peacemaker. It means making fundamental political change in Serbia a public, committed objective.

Even more important is getting serious, at last, about war crimes. The North Atlantic Council has just ended another meeting without changing the cynical mandate of international forces in Bosnia: to arrest suspects only if the soldiers happen upon them.

Mr. Milosevic was named as a possible war criminal in 1992 by Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who said he had information on the chain of military and political responsibility for the savageries committed in Bosnia. The arrest of some indicted war criminals could concentrate Mr. Milosevic's mind wonderfully.

The New York Times.

Don't Bloat Latin American Generals

By Bernard Aronson

WASHINGTON—With democracy ascendant in the Western Hemisphere, Latin America has a historic opportunity to redefine the role of its military, traditionally the greatest obstacle to democratic stability. That opportunity will be endangered if the Clinton administration goes ahead with its plans to end a two-decade-old ban and resume sales of sophisticated U.S. weaponry to Latin American militaries.

The military dictatorships of right and left that ruled through the 1970s and '80s left a legacy of violence and economic mismanagement, and there is no popular nostalgia for their return. The guerrilla insurgencies

during the Cold War that provided a national security rationale for military dominance have in most cases ended. Burgeoning intra-regional trade has begun to erode border rivalries.

These historic changes have offered Latin Americans a unique opportunity to transform the military into a normal, civilian-dominated agency of government. The Clinton administration's impending arms sales presuppose that this important transformation has already taken place. In reality, the delicate balance between civilian and military power has

only barely begun to tilt toward the civilian side.

Elected presidents hold office in every Latin American nation except Cuba, but not one exercises the authority over the military that a Western democratic leader assumes automatically upon taking office.

Apparently, the administration believes that resuming U.S. arms sales will strengthen democracy—and implicitly civilian rule—by recognizing and rewarding those Latin militaries that have accepted democratic governance, as well as those that have supported recent negotiated settlements of disputed boundaries.

This view would be more credible if civilian presidents and populations were asking for new weaponry, but the opposite is true. Civilian leaders are struggling to reduce bloated state budgets and payrolls as part of far-reaching structural economic reforms designed to restrain inflation and attract foreign investment.

Civilians, whose real wages have not recovered from the lost decade of the 1980s, are pressing new democratic governments for safe drinking water, sanitation, health services, basic education and housing.

To feed the appetites of Latin American militaries for sophisticated weapons they do not need at a cost that no Latin nation can afford, and to do so against the private wishes of democratic leaders, would undermine civilian authority and heighten regional tensions.

The writer was assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs from 1989 to 1993. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

The Same Old French-U.S. Row

By Flora Lewis

PARIS—For reasons that are doubtless irrational, relations between France and the United States are on a permanent merry-go-round, carrying away and always bringing back the same problems, jogging as reliably up as down, without going anywhere.

There is an underlying need and interest in being on mutually supportive terms, expressed by de Gaulle's insistence that France remain an ally in good standing even when he took his forces out and kicked NATO out of France.

Disputes are never allowed to go too far, although they are sometimes honed for bargaining or grandstand effect. And there is an underlying rivalry and resentment, as France retains the will to play its traditional "role in the world" despite drastically reduced means in relative terms. The relation cannot be too smooth, for fear of France becoming, or even appearing as, "America's poodle," as a French prime minister called Britain some years ago.

At the moment, the sharpest argument is over NATO's southern command as the alliance structure is streamlined and adapted to make room for a European defense capacity that is "separate but not separable," in the jargon devised for possible European operations without U.S. troops.

There is obviously no way that Washington could consider putting the hefty 6th Fleet, with its eastern Mediterranean and Middle East responsibilities, under foreign command. Nor would it make any military or political sense to separate it from NATO. It is amazing that this wasn't obvious to Jacques Chirac and that he imagined that the main obstacle was just the American election campaign.

Insiders on both sides say he has established a warm personal rapport with Bill Clinton, which he has not achieved with Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl. But he showed incredible insensitivity in his letter to Mr. Clinton saying that the United States owed some reciprocity for the concession of holding the supreme command in Europe all these years (while France stayed out—which he didn't mention).

France seems to be seeking a face-saving way to back down now, and something will be found. It has no choice, given the strategic implications of Mr. Chirac's far-reaching new defense policy. But the quarrel is pointless and unnecessary.

There are lots of other harsh issues: choice of the United Nations secretary-general, crises in Africa, the burden of Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko, dealing with Iran and Iraq, the Arab-Israeli impasse, as well as endless conflicts on trade.

The common, constant theme is always recognition of France as a special power, entitled to a certain privilege, and its display of status and independence by opposing the United States.

These cases through clearly in a new book by the historian Georges-Henri Soutou, thoroughly researched in official archives and unusually candid about *arrière-pensées*, the hidden motives and ambitions that drive policy. Called "The Uncertain Alliance," it is about French-German relations since 1954, but it shows that America is always at the back of French leaders' minds.

In the Gaullist period, grandeur and a prickly pride were an essential tonic to re-

vive the spirits of a nation which knew it had been defeated. That doesn't work any more. Public opinion is focused on domestic problems, and there is no sign that voters are the least bit roused if France thumbs its nose at America.

The domestic climate is grim. A newsmagazine entitled its cover story "The French Sickness." Politicians talk about "the crisis." Commentators compare the country's state to the morose, lethargic Britain that Margaret Thatcher bludgeoned and bruised back to economic vigor.

Yet the franc is steady, the trade balance is healthy and the people live well. Unemployment, at 12 percent, is the raging plague, but workers, especially public sector workers who have job security, strike for the right to retire on government pension at 50 or 55 and for reduced hours at the same pay. Mr. Chirac speaks of the "social fracture" dividing the French, but there always seems to be general sympathy for the strikers and agreement that the government should be more generous and benevolent.

The changing economic world worries the French deeply because of its social implications. They have gladly accepted technological change, but they cling with angry determination to the elaborate encrustation of costly entitlements and protection built up over the years, which drains their economic resilience.

It is another version of the glory nostalgia that raps French-American relations, and it does show lively will. Hard as it is to handle, France is determined to count. It may be mixing up ends and means, fooling itself in amour propre, but it isn't sick.

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OPINION/LETTERS

A Bad Night in New York For NATO Enlargement

By Richard Cohen

NEW YORK — This is a tale of three cities. In Detroit last October, President Bill Clinton pledged that NATO would add new members — probably Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — by 1999. In Brussels this week, the 16 members of NATO began the process. But in this city, where foreign policy still is shaped, if no longer made, NATO expansion had a disastrous week. In fact, it was a Broadway play, it would have closed overnight.

NATO's bad night was Monday — at the Council on Foreign Relations. There, Richard Holbrooke squared off with Michael Mandelbaum.

It should have been a rout. Mr. Holbrooke, after all, is a recent assistant secretary of state who had it not been for Madeleine Albright, might be taking over the job. Moreover, he was arguing for expanding NATO. It is not only the administration's position but that of Bob Dole as well and indeed the Republican Party. Even the Republicans' storied Contract With America called for NATO expansion.

But Mr. Holbrooke lost the debate — not to mention, on occasion, his temper. Either Mr. Mandelbaum, a foreign policy expert at Johns Hopkins University and author of a new book that argues against NATO expansion ("The Dawn of Peace in Europe"), won over much of the audience or it was predisposed toward his arguments in the first place. Whatever the case, NATO lost — and lost big.

No doubt, the Council on Foreign Relations is not what it used to be back when foreign policy was largely the purview of New York bankers and lawyers. But it still consists of investment bankers, lawyers, former diplomats and others with a keen interest in international relations, not to mention a substantial degree of influence. When a standing-room-only crowd of its members evinces such skepticism — if not downright hostility — toward NATO enlargement, the Clinton administration had better take note. If a bunch of internationalists feel this way, how is NATO expansion going to play in Poland?

Like a dud, if you ask me. Yet in Washington both the Clinton administration and the diplomatic community refer to NATO enlargement as if it were a foregone conclusion.

Just recently, for instance, a European ambassador mentioned

it to me as if nothing could possibly stop it. He could not believe that a proposition backed by the Democratic White House and the Republican Congress would not be translated into law.

But the law in this case is a treaty — and that requires ratification by two-thirds of the Senate. It would extend NATO's security guarantee — the famous Article 5 — to nations once in the Soviet orbit. If any are admitted to NATO, an attack on any one of them would constitute an attack on the United States.

Theoretically at least, America could go to war for the city of Bratislava. I maintain, that lacks the resonance of, say, Paris.

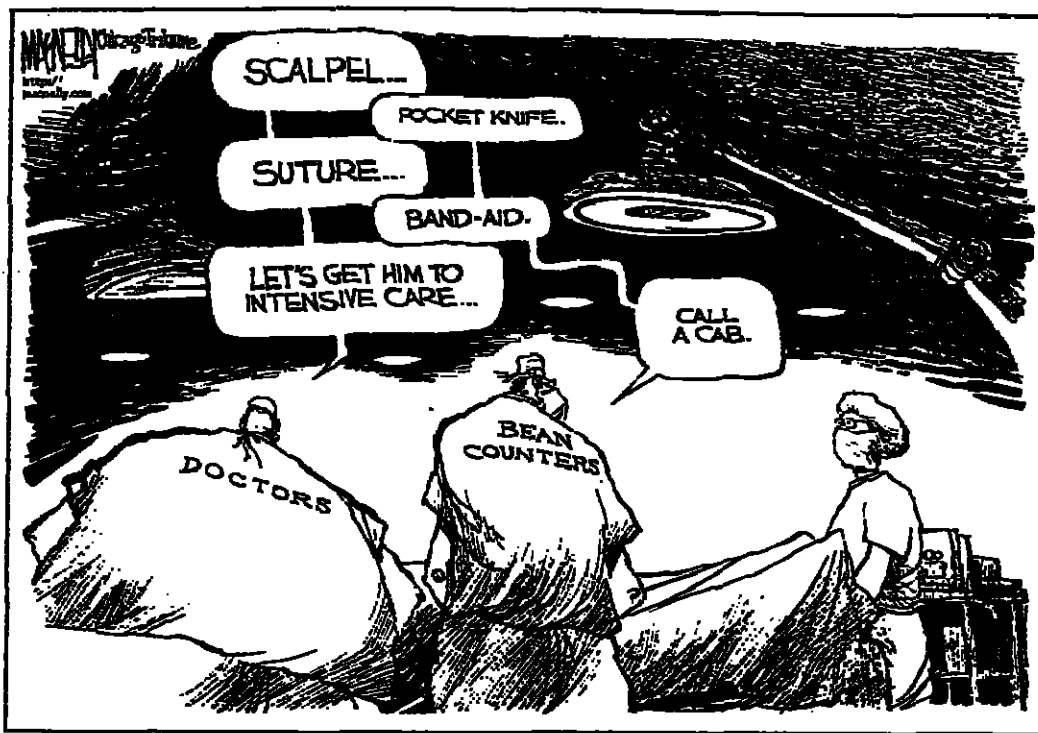
Like many at Monday night's debate, I have my doubts about NATO expansion. Do we really want to extend security guarantees to nations whose democratic roots are so shallow that they virtually do not exist? (For example, Slovakia keeps forgetting it's not nice for the government to muscle the press.) Do we want to antagonize the Russians who rightly see NATO expansion as directed at them? And what about the cost? Integrating additional armies could cost NATO as much as \$125 billion — about 10 percent of that coming from Uncle Sam.

On the other hand, NATO has been a way for the United States to be a European power. Extending NATO would extend Washington's reach. It would diminish Germany's potential clout and keep the Russians in Russia. Twice in this century, world wars started in Europe, and twice the United States had to respond.

Nevertheless, I remain skeptical — but not hostile — toward NATO enlargement if only because I remain skeptical about some of the new Central European democracies. I have shoes that are older than these republics. Besides, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic no longer border on the old Soviet Union. As for Russia, at the moment it is mostly a menace to itself.

In the best of all possible worlds, NATO would proceed on enlargement so slowly that, in the end, we might find it is not needed. But if the administration, prodded by anti-Russian Republicans, sticks to its current timetable or, as Mr. Dole recommended, accelerates it, NATO enlargement will go the route of the League of Nations. The debate at the Council on Foreign Relations showed that.

The Washington Post.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NATO and the Baltics

Valdis Krastins, Latvia's ambassador to the Czech Republic ("Will They Sacrifice the Baltic Peoples Again?" — Opinion, Dec. 6) is to be congratulated for putting the case of the three Baltic states in a balanced and well-reasoned way and requesting "a declared prospect of NATO membership in the foreseeable future."

The Baltics' case is not lost. Yalta and the Hitler-Stalin plot will certainly be on the minds of NATO ministers and heads of state and government when in the coming weeks and months they forge a new NATO that also fulfills its moral obligations. I hope my own country will forcefully contribute to that.

DIETRICH GENSCHKE

Bonn.

Out of (German) Order

Not everyone who gets a speeding ticket in Germany can vent his or her anger by writing an article in the newspaper. And not everyone who can do so would abuse the privilege. In "Searching the German Soul: Order Is Just the Right Speed" (Dec. 9, by Alan Cowell), the writer starts off by making fun of the family name of the city employee who signed the ticket. He then went on to rehash the stereotype of the "Ordnung-loving German."

There are many serious problems in Germany. Latent nationalism among policymakers, the collapse of independent thinking in political parties, the waste of resources by forcing through un-

popular measures such as the government's move to Berlin, and the failure to modernize the economy are only a few. I am sure readers would much prefer sound analysis of them to dubious interpretations of the "German soul" on the basis of the traffic code.

ALBERT L. BRANCATO

Bonn.

Palestinian Statehood

Regarding "A Palestinian State Already?" (Opinion, Dec. 5) by William Pfaff:

Mr. Pfaff's suggestion that Yasser Arafat unilaterally declare a Palestinian state threatens the fundamental basis of the Middle East peace process. The idea of peace negotiations is that participants will work together to reach mutual agreements on outstanding issues.

The cause of peace would be better served by encouraging Palestinians and Israelis to deal with their disagreements directly, at the negotiating table.

KENNETH JACOBSON, Assistant National Director, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, New York.

The Fate of a Library

Regarding "In a Dim Room in Lithuania, a Treasure of Jewish Literature" (Nov. 25):

As a native of Vilnius who is presently involved in Lithuania, I read with great interest about the fate of the thousands of rare texts from the Strashun Library.

In spite of my upbringing in an "assimilated" environment, I am

deeply penetrated by the Jewish heritage radiating from what has just been called the "Jerusalem of Lithuania." I fully agree with Mikhail Jakobson, director of one of the two remaining Hebrew schools in Lithuania, who said that if this unique collection leaves Lithuania "it means the Jews are gone, too."

Emanuelis Zingeris, state commissioner for human rights and the defense of minorities, as well as director of the state's Jewish Museum, has said that there is a good chance of transferring all of the remaining volumes of the Strashun Library to premises adjoining the Jewish Museum in Vilnius, where they could be properly stored and catalogued, provided funding can be found for the new facilities.

There also are indications that the government would be receptive to such a project and might help in getting the material released to properly dedicated premises.

Private funding must be found to provide a proper home for this treasure in Vilnius and to make the material available to students and scholars the world over.

KELE HIDEKEL, Marignane, France.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Stories of Former Slaves, Poignant and Unsettling

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — I've put off telling you about Donna Wyant Howell's work in progress. "I Was a Slave," because I've had trouble figuring out what to say about it. The accounts really don't tell you much you didn't already know about slavery, and what they do reveal is unconnected, inconsistent and without historical context. They are not even her stories; she got them from the Library of Congress.

I still don't know what to say about her work, except this: Read it. If you are descended from slaves, if your forebears or their

relatives owned slaves, if you have any curiosity about America's "peculiar institution," you owe it to yourself at least to sample this fledgling collection, and for this reason: The accounts are from the slaves themselves.

There is something special — specially poignant, specially revealing and sometimes specially unsettling — hearing the stories from the mouths of ex-slaves.

Ms. Howell, a Howard University fine arts major with a lifelong interest in history, came upon the accounts while doing research for a free-lance project.

This not-quite-secret treasure trove (historians specializing in slavery long have known about it) is the result of literally thousands of interviews with former slaves, done between 1934 and 1941.

The interviewers' skills varied as widely as the ex-slaves' experiences, making it difficult to pull the accounts together in any coherent pattern. Further, the interviews took place largely during the Depression, which undoubtedly colored the ex-slaves' recollections of slavery.

But listen: "We wucked all de week, my mammy plowin' wid a two-horse plow all de year when she warn't cleanin' new ground or diggin' ditches an' she got two days off when her chilluns wuz borned. We ain't had no passes ter go nowhar an' we ain't allowed offen de ground's."

That is Lila Nichols, 89 at the time of her interview. This is John Smith, who was 108:

"My marster owned three plantations and 300 slaves. He started out wid two 'oman slaves and raised 300 slaves. One wuz called Short Peggy, and the udder wuz Long Peggy. Long Peggy had 25 chilluns. Long Peggy, a black 'oman, wuz boss ob de

plantation. Marster freed her after she had 25 chilluns. Just think o' dat, raisin' 300 slaves wid two 'omans. It sho is de truf, do."

Here is Willie Blackwell:

"Poor white fo'ks don't even much go in dem days. W'en dey wants to speak to de Marster, dey comes up to de gate in de small yahd an' holler. De Marster looks outer de window. Marster, 'Looky yonder. Now I wondah what he Mistez' dress right off de line and goes into de smokehouse forations, den tates 'em to de poor folks. Yes, suh, dat's de nigger slave all ovah. Can't stand to see no sufferin'."

Some interviewers pretty much followed the questionnaires they were given. Others set off in their own directions, or followed the conversation wherever it headed. Some transcribed the words in standard spellings. Others routinely offer such transcriptions as "surrendah" or "caphentah" or "w'en," or they have "folks cum fer dinner."

Many of those interviewed spoke longingly of the old days when there was no freedom but plenty of food. Others had memories of beatings, rapes and other cruelties (owners who would "sell de babies from de breast and de mothers from de babies") that even the hard times of the Depression were incapable of softening.

Ms. Howell's contribution is to organize these thousands of interviews. You get a sense of the burden she has chosen when you recognize that the four "chapters" — 50-page pamphlets — she has completed to date, "Descriptions of Plantation Life," "The Lives of Slave Men," "The Lives of Slave Women" and "The Breeding of Slaves," leave her with 20 chapters to go.

They are available for \$5.95 each, plus mailing, from her own tiny company, American Legacy Books (P.O. Box 1393-F, Washington, D.C. 20013-1393; or 202-737-7827).

This is not pretty work she has done. But it is valuable work, well worth the reading.

The Washington Post.

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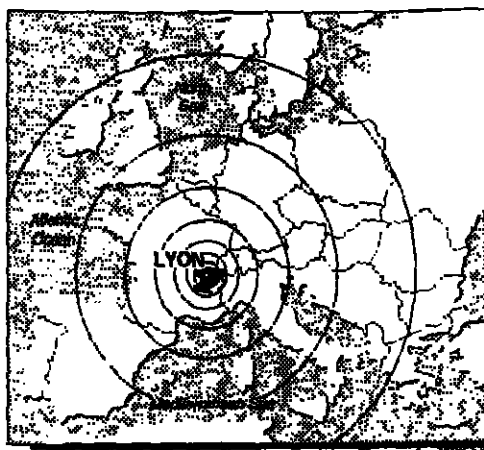
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LYON: The European City for the 21st Century

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The Good Life

Appreciated for its gracious pace, Lyon bears the gastronomic crown of France. When strictly culinary appetites have been satisfied, there's still a smorgasbord of cultural events to be sampled.



A BRIEF WALKING TOUR OF THE CITY

Besides historic quarters, museums and monuments, Lyon has the world's most artistic parking lots.

There may be a new candidate for the sobriquet "City of Light." On the evening of Dec. 8 every year, the city of Lyon glows with the warm light of thousands of candles burning in the windows of residents' homes for the Fête des Lumières. But all year long the city's monuments are bathed in light, from the banks of the Rhône and Saône rivers to the Fourvière hilltop.

The Basilique Notre-Dame on top of Fourvière is a good place from which to get one's bearings before setting out on a walking tour of this historic city. The basilica is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, after undergoing extensive renovation. An eyesore to some and an important religious symbol to others, the basilica is undeniably a point of reference for both residents and visitors alike.

Down the road a bit, nearly hidden in the hillside by its clever architecture, is the Musée de la Civilisation Gallo-Romaine, where the area's archaeological treasures, including some fine Roman mosaics, can be seen. While there, take the time to explore the remains of a Roman theater on the site that is still used for performances.

Renaissance legacy

A walk down the winding streets from the hilltop leads to the heart of the city, the beautiful old quarters of Saint-Georges, Saint-Jean and Saint-Paul. Saint-Jean in particular is

bleamed with perfectly restored Renaissance architecture, a legacy of the Italian silk makers and bankers who settled in the city in the 16th century. Explore the traboules, narrow corridors connecting streets that were once used by textile porters, and make sure to peek into courtyards when they are open. The 12th-century Romanesque Saint-Jean Cathedral, whose Gothic facade was completed 300 years later, is located in this quarter.

The newly restored Musée des Beaux-Arts, housed in a 17th-century abbey in the Terreaux district and featuring the works of Lyonnais artists, is a must visit, if only for a rest in its lovely courtyard sculpture garden.

For a look at what made Lyon great — silk and other textiles — pay a visit to the internationally renowned Musée des Tissus de Lyon, which covers 2,000 years of fabric history. Then cross the river and take a walk on the Croix-Rousse hill to see where the fabric came from. The windows here are taller — the rooms were built with high ceilings to accommodate the extra-large looms used by the 19th-century weavers, who worked at home. This area is also crisscrossed by traboules.

The Musée des Canuts (the local name for the weavers) features a hand-operated Jacquard loom and fabric exhibitions. Pay a visit to the Amphithéâtre des Trois Gaules, where Sainte Blandine was thrown to the lions during the Roman slaughter

of Christians in the second century. She was supposedly so thin that the lions waited a full 24 hours before making a meal of her.

Contemporary art

It's necessary to take public transportation to get to the new Cité Internationale complex designed by Renzo Piano, site of the remodeled Musée d'Art Contemporain. Across the road is the sprawling Parc de la Tête d'Or, with its rose garden, lake, zoo and handsome 19th-century greenhouses.

Just outside of town is the brand-new Musée de Saint-Romain en Gal, built on the site of a Roman settlement that was discovered in 1967 during the construction of a school. The museum takes visitors on a guided tour of everyday life as it was lived from the first century B.C. to the third century.

Before leaving Lyon, don't forget to go underground. The city recently opened the most beautiful parking lots in the world, each one designed by an architect or artist, that should serve as models for urban planners everywhere. They are attractive, brightly lit and safe. The one by Daniel Buren and Michel Targe on the Place des Célestins, with its Italianate design echoing the city's Renaissance buildings, is really worth a visit.

For more information, contact L'Office de Tourisme de Lyon, Place Bellecour, 69002 Lyon. Tel.: 04 72 72 30. Fax: 04 78 37 02 06.

AND LEST WE FORGET: DELIGHTS OF THE TABLE

While France's top chefs battle in the press over the merits of traditional recipes versus "novelty" cuisine with foreign influences, Lyon's restaurants continue to do what they do best: cook and serve good food, with one caveat — a few traditional Lyonnais specialties, like brains and beef marrow, have been banned because of concern about mad cow disease.

Not to worry — that still leaves many animal parts for Lyonnais chefs to cook up, from cow's udder with garlic, parsley and lemon to lamb's testicles in white wine and lemon. Those who shudder at the thought will be reassured to know that there are other dishes available in the capital of French gastronomy, including traditional delicacies like gratons (pork cracklings), quenelles de brochet (pike dumplings, usually served in a cream sauce) and saucissons truffés pistachés (sausages made with truffles and pistachios). The city's top chefs, needless to say, go beyond tradition to create their own specialties.

Wine and cheese

The region's two delectable, creamy cheeses, Saint-Marcellin and Saint-Pélicien, must also be tasted, and it must not be forgotten that Lyon is situated in the Rhône-Alpes, one of France's great wine-growing regions. Those who know Beaujolais only in its nouveau form must taste the grands crus, Saint-Amour, Juliénas, Fleurie, Morgon, Chiroubles, Régnié, Chénas, Moulin à Vents, Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly. The sun-kissed region also produces Condrieu and the incomparable Côte Rotie.

Where can one partake of the riches of the region? Here are a few suggestions.

Perhaps the best-known restaurant in Lyon itself is Léon de Lyon (1, rue Pléney, 69001 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 28 11 33; fax: 04 78 39 89 05), which serves both classic Lyonnais dishes and more modern fare. Go at lunchtime for the fixed-price lunch menu if you're not on a three-star budget.

Few names in French gastronomy have the international recognition enjoyed by Paul Bocuse (40, rue de la Plage, 69660 Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or. Tel.: 04 72 42 90 90; fax: 04 72 27 85 87). He may be overhyped, but his cooking is still worth the trip out of town.

Philippe Chavent, owner of the lovely restaurant La Tour Rose (22, rue de Boeuf, 69005 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 37 25 90; fax: 04 78 42 26 02), located in the hotel of the same name, is one of Lyon's most respected young chefs. You can also enjoy a fine meal in his less expensive, more casual Le Comptoir de Boeuf across the street.

Another good restaurant in a hotel is the Terrasses de Lyon (25-27, montée Saint-Barthélemy, 69005 Lyon. Tel.: 04 72 56 56 56; fax: 04 72 40 04 51) in La Villa Florentine, where the dishes prepared by chef Stéphane Gaboriau have a Provencal flavor and the windows have a view of Old Lyon.

A young chef who goes all-out for creativity, to fine effect, is Thierry Gache (37, rue de la Thibaudière, 69007 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 72 81 77; fax: 04 78 72 01 75), whose restaurant is located in a quiet residential neighborhood. Prices are very reasonable considering the quality of the food.

For more reasonable prices and good, traditional cooking with a modern touch, try Le Vivarais (1, place Gaillarde, 69002 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 37 85 15; fax: 04 78 37 59 49) or Chez Jean-François (2, place des Célestins, 69002 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 42 08 26. Fax: 04 72 40 04 51).

Traditional bistros

For real down-home, Lyon-style cooking, every visitor must have at least one meal in a bouchon, the traditional Lyon bistro. To sample local dishes like tablier de sapeur (marinated, breaded and fried tripe) and cervelle de canut (fromage blanc with herbs), try La Mésnière (11, rue Neuve, 69001 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 28 62 91) or Chez Sylvain (4, rue Tupin, 69002 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 42 11 98).

For a fun evening with live jazz and good food and drink, stop in at Le Boulevardier (5, rue de la Fromagerie, 69001 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 28 48 22; fax: 04 78 27 06 09).

Finally, do not leave Lyon without trying what may be the world's best chocolate from Berrachon (42, cours Franklin-Roosevelt, 69006 Lyon. Tel.: 04 78 24 37 98).

WIRING THE RHÔNE

Michel Mercler is president of the Conseil Général du Rhône, the governing body of the French department that encompasses Lyon. In the following interview, he discusses the activities of the council and the innovative cable project that will make Rhône the first department in France to have total access to the information highway.

Residents will finally have good television reception no matter how isolated the area they live in, and it will be interactive television with free access to the Internet (via a computer) and educational services. The project represents a total investment of 1.1 billion francs (\$210.6 million), and the Time-Warner group is an active partner through its wholly owned subsidiary Time Warner Cable France.

Can you describe the mission and activities of the Conseil Général du Rhône?

The Conseil Général du Rhône is a deliberative assembly that manages the department. Composed of 51 elected council members, the assembly is responsible for social cohesiveness. Its social and legal services come to the aid of children, the elderly and the handicapped, and help people in difficulties to find work.

At the same time, the assembly is responsible for the coordination of projects in the city and the countryside in terms of investment in roads, transportation and schools.

Finally, it is charged with the cultural enrichment of its citizens (there are four departmental museums) and the preservation of the department's cultural heritage.

What are the top priorities of the Conseil Général du Rhône?

Social services and infrastructure.

Can you describe the cable television project that is being undertaken in the department?

This network of fiber-optic cables with coaxial cable branches will interconnect every community in the department. The department is contributing one-third of the investment and the cable concessionaire, Rhône Vision Câble, is contributing the rest.

Why did the department choose to undertake this project?

This was a political decision that will provide our citizens with equal access to multimedia services and the technologies of tomorrow.

What is revolutionary about this project?

Four years from now, all the public places in the department and more than 700,000 inhabitants, as well as the department's businesses, will be equipped with high-output

Internet connections via the cable. This includes even the smallest community in the department, with just 60 inhabitants.

What effects will the project have on the cultural life of the department?

It will make available to rural areas services that are normally accessible only to city-dwellers.

What is the role of Time-Warner in the project?

Time-Warner is the major shareholder, with 49.8 percent. It is contributing its technical and commercial know-how.

What is the role of the Conseil Général du Rhône?

The Conseil Général du Rhône initiated the project and represents the commu-



nities that will benefit from it. The Conseil contributed 350 million francs and its guarantee.

Are your efforts to promote the department bearing fruit?

The new archaeological museum in Saint-Romain en Gal is attracting a large number of visitors from France and abroad, and has created many new jobs.

Do you have any other comments?

The Conseil Général du Rhône plans to set up reception centers throughout the department to provide all its citizens with better access to its services. Its working basis is the canton, the level at which inter-community cooperation is carried out.

A RICH ARRAY OF CULTURAL EVENTS ON OFFER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Lyon can hold its own in theater, dance, music, art — and even controversial architecture.

It's not difficult to sing the praises of Lyon's cultural life, which has people literally dancing in the streets — this year, the city's Biennale de la Danse filled both the streets and the theaters of Lyon with the colorful costumes and driving rhythms of 550 visiting Brazilian dancers, and more than 100,000 spectators joined in.

Lyon's active theater groups often perform outdoors as well, in venues ranging from the partially restored Roman theater on the Fourvière hill to the Place des Célestins, in front of the 19th-century Italian-style Théâtre des Célestins, which stages everything from plays by Samuel Beckett and Jean Anouilh to a musical comedies. The city's Théâtre National Populaire presents works by internationally renowned directors like Roger Planchon.

The Opéra National de Lyon, whose 19th-century building as remodeled by architect Jean Nouvel is a hot topic of debate — one either loves it or hates it — is less controversial when it comes to its productions. Kent Nagano is the opera's musical director, and Claire Gibault, one of the few female conductors at this level in the world, is director of the opera's Atelier Lyrique et de la Maîtrise. Symphonic concerts and dance performances are held at the opera house, which is also the home of the acclaimed Ballet de l'Opéra National de Lyon, whose resident choreographer is American Bill T. Jones.

Concerts of all types of music, from classical to jazz and world music, are held at the modern Auditorium Maurice Ravel, the base of the Orchestre National de Lyon, conducted by Emmanuel Krivine.



Conductor Claire Gibault.

Shaped like a scallop shell, the building, opened in 1975, is one of the largest concert halls in Europe.

Rock concerts, sports events, trade fairs and other spectacles are held in the Halle Tony Garnier, a former covered market (the world's largest covered structure built of metal), which has served as a cattle market, slaughterhouse and munitions factory.

Lyon's Maison de la Danse is the only theater in Europe devoted exclusively to dance.

Its artistic director, Guy Darmet (also director of the Biennale de la Danse), brings to Lyon the world's great choreographers and dance troupes, ranging from Merce Cunningham and William Forsythe to Christina Hoyos and the Dance Theater of Harlem. Lyon has the special honor of being the birthplace of cinema. In 1895,

the Lumière brothers, Louis and Auguste, made the first film in the city.

The building they used for their pioneering movie of workers leaving a factory was recently restored, and their heritage lives on in the Institut Lumière, whose chairman is the French film director Bertrand Tavernier. Housed in the Lumière brothers' restored 19th-century mansion, where the brothers invented the cinématographe, this museum of cinema preserves the Lumière archives and screens films from around the world.

One of France's oldest film production companies, the Compagnie Lyonnaise de Cinéma, has made hundreds of documentaries, features, and educational and promotional films. The company was instrumental in the founding of the Cité de l'Image, a 5,000-square-meter complex that provides facilities and service to film directors, crews and actors from around the world.

For more information on the Lyon region, contact:

ADERLY
20, rue de la Bourse
69289 Lyon Cedex 02,
France
Tel.: 04 72 40 57 50
Fax: 04 72 40 57 35
E-mail:
Aderyl@courrier.nercnet.fr



Choreography by Bill T. Jones at the Opéra de Lyon.

سكنا من الاربعين

How to Say Rudolph in Tagalog: The Trib Shopper's Guide

Decorations are up, stores are full, you can't put it off any longer. We asked our correspondents to dip into their shopping bags and come up with a few last-minute ideas.

BERLIN

The traditional white fruitcake Germans call a Christstollen originated in Dresden. If dark American fruitcake approaches the specific gravity of ebony, Saxony's Christstollen has maybe only that of eucalyptus. It contains white flour, butter (lots), sugar, yeast, vanilla, almonds, fresh and candied lemon peel, nutmeg, golden raisins, water and cognac, and the final Stollen loaf gets generously rolled in powdered sugar. Germany's Christmas also demands succulent Lebkuchen. Remember the witch's house that seduced Hansel and Gretel? That savvy old bag built the original not of handrum gingerbread but of noble, irresistible Lebkuchen, which is to gingerbread as Camembert is to Veloute. Germany's KalbeWe department store (Tannenzienstr. 21, D-10789 Berlin, phone [4930] 2121-2366, fax 2121-2610) features a gift-packaged 1-kilo Christstollen for 24.95 Deutsche marks (about \$16) and superlative Leysiedler Lebkuchen at 15 DM for a 250-gram package. (Paul Moor)

MADRID

Mattel has taken the trouble to augment its Barbie doll family with a new Spanish entry named "Barbie Andalucia" wearing a red flamenco dress with white polka dots (5.250 pesetas, or \$40). So it may be a signal for everyone to focus more on Spain's signature musical genre. The offspring of flamenco, greats are carrying on the tradition by mixing traditional flamenco melodies with pop instrumentation and production values. Rosario, daughter of the late singer Lola Flores, has a new 12-song record, "Mucho por Vivir" (CD costs 2,800 pesetas, or \$21, and cassette costs 1,900 pesetas, or \$14.50). Ketama's guitarist, Jose Miguel Carmona, carries on the tradition of the Habichuela family dynasty of flamenco guitarists. The group is preparing a new album, but the 12 songs on its 1995 live-concert recording, "De Aqui a Ketama," still offer plenty to please (CD for 1,995 pesetas or \$15 and cassette for 1,800 pesetas or \$13.75). (Al Goodman)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

How would someone in Australia, enjoying the warmth of a southern hemisphere summer, spread some of the sunshine for Christmas to a friend in, say, Britain? Easy. Order a case of wine from the Cape Mentelle Vineyards Ltd. near Margaret River, south of Perth. Cape Mentelle offers U.K. delivery of its wines and those of its sister vineyard, Cloudy Bay in New Zealand. Wines currently available include three Cape Mentelle: Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 1996 (220 Australian dollars/\$173 per case delivered in U.K.), Chardonnay 1995 (310 Australian dollars) Merlot 1994 (215 Australian dollars), and two Cloudy Bays, Sauvignon Blanc 1996 (220 Australian dollars) and Pelorus champagne 1992 (195 Australian dollars for six bottles). Phone (61) 97-57-3266 or fax (61) 97-57-3233. (Michael Richardson)

BRUSSELS

Why not offer your loved ones a crack at a great Belgian pastime: trying to piece together a masterpiece of the Art Nouveau pioneer architect Victor Horta. They won't have to puzzle over how to fit together real bricks and curvy ironwork — just a 500-piece jigsaw. When completed it shows an interior view of Horta's home, which managed to dodge the bulldozer and is now a museum. The puzzle is on sale for 500 Belgian francs (\$16) at the Palais des Beaux-Arts (a Horta creation) in conjunction with the "Foundation Europalia International 'Horta'" exhibition. (Barbara Rosen)

VINICI

A vital vademecum for those in search of places far from the madding crowd, "Historic Houses & Gardens Open to the Public in Italy," compiled by FAI (Italy's National Trust), has come out in English for the first time and has color pictures, descriptions, and phone numbers of over 1,200 palaces, villas and gardens. You can find it at bookshops and newsstands, or order it from the Milan publisher, Giorgio Mondadori (28,000 lire/\$18; fax: [39 2] 89-12-5873). Many of Italy's gastronomic specialties are difficult to transport long distance. Try capperi di lipari al sale (capers in salt) from the volcanic Aeolian Islands. You can find them in markets for about \$1 for 100 grams — when you rinse them in hot water they inflate into extraordinarily flavorful, succulent berries. (Roderick Conway Morris)

MANILA

A star of the recent APEC summit was the Filipino barong, the see-through men's off-white dress shirt worn by many of the leaders, so maybe something similar would be appropriately exotic as a gift. The barong is made of pineapple cloth, with intricate hand-embroidered designs down the front, and is traditionally worn without a jacket. Or, because free trade is the theme of the moment, why not send some Cuban cigars, available without a blink here, to an aficionado, especially an American one? Or if the Cubans are out of stock, try a Fighting Cock or a Double Happiness, made of fine Filipino tobacco. They can be shipped anywhere without breaching trade sanctions. (Karen Emmons)

BEIJING

Christmas here used to be a cloistered affair for the expatriate community, with the authorities frowning on a festival that reeked of Western spiritual pollution. Not any more. Santa Claus may still be unwelcome down the chim-

neys of party cadres, but elsewhere the locals have spotted a market opening. First stop for the Christmas gift shopper is Miss Bai, who runs Store 113 at the Hong Qiao pearl market, on the third floor of a modern white building opposite the east gate of the Temple of Heaven park. Miss Bai sells fresh-water pearls from her home province of Zhejiang. Prices range from \$5 to \$700. On the same floor are "antique" stalls selling Cultural Revolution memorabilia. You can buy your own revolutionary wake-up call in the form of a 1960s alarm clock with a face depicting a triumphant Red Guard rally in Tiananmen Square; expect to pay up to \$30. Head to the Beijing Friendship Store for the best children's stocking filler, a battery-driven walking panda activated by loud clap in front of its flashing green eyes; \$5. For maximum mayhem, buy a mobile Santa as well, set him on a collision course with a panda, and let battle commence. (Richard Tomlinson)

HO CHI MINH CITY

This is hardly the most Christmasy of locales, but it is a treasure trove of off-beat antiques and bric-a-brac. Lac Long (the proprietor as well as the name of his store) is an old Saigon institution, full of stories of when he used to fit famous correspondents, GIs and generals for cowboy boots and golf shoes. Antique

holiday bookings tied to the new cult of cool, though it pains some to admit it. "Trendy seems a bit volatile, a bit transitory," sniffs a spokesman for the ultrashop Savoy Group of hotels. "But we do like to appeal to young executives and beautiful people." (Erik Ipsen)

LIJUBLJANA

The cold, fog and snow of Slovenian winter demands something heart-warming for Christmas. I love the traditional, bright red decorated hearts made of ice honey-cake that can be bought at market stalls and folk-art shops. The hearts come in all sizes (and prices) and, though edible, are made for looking at rather than eating — many come with ribbons and can be hung as tree ornaments. Fine Slovenian wines and schnapps also make good gifts — particularly those sold in hand-decorated or other specialty bottles. At Ljubljana's Vinoteka wine cellar shop and restaurant (Dunajska 18, tel: [386] 61-1315015) I found some beautifully distinctive, sinuous bottles designed by the local sculptor Kogoj. Other more or less edible gifts include bread baked in the shape of hedgehogs and devils. (Ruth Ellen Gruber)

LISBON

Nothing says Lisbon like azulejos, the fanciful tiles adorning churches, palaces, restaurants, taverns, te-

times of year was approaching and that queues were possible after the "bonus season" — "when people come here to get over their disappointment." Japan's Christmas bonus season runs from around Dec. 10 to Dec. 25. (Velisarios Kantoulas)

PRAGUE

I discovered a violinist last spring and, ever since, I've been giving his recordings as gifts. In the virtuoso hands of Václav Hudeček, even an oft-reheated chestnut like Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" sounds new. No wonder Hudeček's 1992 CD, with Pavel Kogan conducting the Virtuosi di Praga, is Supraphon's all-time classical best-seller. If you want something more season-specific, Hudeček is featured on Supraphon's all-star holiday CD for 1996, "Scribme Vanoce" (Silver Christmas), 65 minutes of music that has him accompanying harpist Jana Bouskova in a Massenet meditation, mezzo-soprano Dagmar Peckova in a Bach hymn, and soaring above the Bambini di Praga children's choir and a flutist in a high-pitched, angelic nightingale's song by J.J. Ryba, a Czech contemporary of Mozart's, before converging with the church bells of Kutna Hora in an all-out attack on "Silent Night." Details from Supraphon a.s., Palackého 1, CZ-112 99 Prague 1. Each CD costs 289 koruny (about \$10.50). (Alan Levy)

MEDITERRANEAN RIM

Thirsting to recapture the savor of that delectable olive oil that seemed unforgettable at the time? A good place to look is this elegant sampler, available by mail from France. Small bottles offer eight gourmet oils from around the Mediterranean; a booklet gives a local recipe for each one. For Jezzeel Valley oil, for example, the perfect match is cote de boeuf with anchovy-parsley sauce. When you've found your oil — Abruzzi, Andalusian, Catalan, Galician, Greek, Provençal, Tuscan or ex-Yugoslav — the company sells it by the liter. Once supplies are gone, you'll have to wait for next year's vintage. This year's selection — robustly packed — costs 285 French francs (\$54). Oliviers & Co., Mane, 04300, tel: (33) 4-92-70-48-20; fax: (33) 4-92-70-48-11. (Joseph Fitchett)

ST. PETERSBURG

Amid the usual tourist junk available here, the traditional Russian nesting dolls called *matrioshki* have a special staying power. Originally, *matrioshki* grew out of village handicraft in old Muscovy, and the dolls are still available in various hand-painted permutations reflecting the peasant craft. But some 1996 *matrioshki* would feel oddly more at home in Chicago — offering, in descending order of importance, the line-up of the Chicago Bulls. From Michael Jordan down to (ouch) Scottie Pippen, the dolls were painted by hand from back issues of Sports Illustrated by an artist at 1 Bolshaya Konnyushnaya Square who identified himself only as Oleg. Supplies are limited and sell for \$75 to \$100 (rubles only), depending on how well you negotiate. (Charles Digges)

CATALOGUE, U.S.A.

Wading through the ever-growing flood of year-end catalogues in the world center of mail-order sales, a keen-eyed prospector can extract some wonderful bits of Americana. Consider these: A genuine post-office box bank, with metal door and the small window that lets you check for mail (or money). A certificate tells you which U.S. Post Office it came from; some are 70 years old (\$59, from "Wireless: A Catalog for Fans and Friends of Public Radio," P.O. Box 64422, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164; tel: 1-612-659-4312). A birch-bark canoe Christmas tree ornament, handmade by Ojibwa artisans (\$9.95, from "Coldwater Creek: A North Country Catalog," One Coldwater Creek Drive, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864; tel: 1-208-263-2266). (Brian Knowlton)

LOS ANGELES

Merchants here are hawking items that might not prove as popular in, say, Paris or Tokyo. One major department store has four different models of the "ab machine" (also known as the "ab sculptor" or "ab coach"), a deceptively simple instrument of torture priced from \$40 to \$70. The upscale Nordstrom's guarantees your size of the "Rockport World Tour Prowalker," sneakers for \$89.95. DKNY's "basic athletic sneaker" goes for \$125 at Bloomingdale's. The most popular kid's toy going is the new "Tickle-me Elmo," a Sesame Street doll that giggles, laughs, squirms and vibrates. Robert Ratnoff, manager of Toyorama in Westwood, says he sold his last one this week to Pamela Anderson Lee (for her baby, of course). The hottest new shopping venue is the Virtual Emporium on Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, which features shopping by Internet. Shoppers can cruise the Web on terminals set up to access catalogues for toys, vacation spots, books or wine, aided by sales assistants wearing T-shirts with question marks. (Sharon Waxman)

WASHINGTON

An underground classic, "Wrestling with Angels" retells Genesis as a series of case studies in growing up. The primal Biblical scene in Eden launches everyman's journey of "growing up and leaving home, and then growing up again in adulthood as your children leave home," says author Naomi Rosenblatt. An Israeli-born psychotherapist married to a pillar of the Democratic Party's establishment in Washington, she teaches a legendary Sunday school class that attracts so many senators that sessions are now held on a weekday in the Capitol building. This is the book of the movie in the sense that it helped inspire a 10-part television series about Genesis that goes beneath the sanitized versions of the book and brings out its eternal drama: "rape, incest, murder, adultery, jealousy, greed, betrayal." Published by Bantam Doubleday Dell, the hardcover edition lists at \$22.95. (Joseph Fitchett)

nements, townhouses, even subway stations. Tiles are the traveler's perfect gift. small, flat, easy-to-pack. Fabrica Sant'Anna has been producing exquisite hand-painted tiles since 1741; factory visits can be arranged in the main showroom (Rua do Alecrim, 95). An eight-tile mural depicting an 18th-century hunt is priced at 22,500 escudos (\$145); single floral or animal tiles at 1,000 escudos (\$6.40). Viuva Lamego, founded in 1849, is located in a seedy area (Largo do Intendente, 25) but worth a visit for its fairytale tile facade and wide selection, with a two-tile floral panel for 1500 escudos (\$9.60) and a 165-tile map of old Lisbon for 317,000 escudos (\$2,040). (Marvine Howe)

TOKYO

Help yourself recover from celebrating Christmas and New Year in buzzing Tokyo by spending 1,000 yen (\$8.85) for a massage at one of the hundreds of wholesome massage parlors that have fanned out across the city over the last three years. Prices start at around 1,000 yen for a 10-minute neck, shoulder and back massage and 5,000 yen for an hour-long, full-body massage drawing on traditional Asian techniques like acupuncture and Japanese shiatsu and the more Western aromatherapy. Yuichi Sasagawa, manager of a parlor near Yoyogi station in western Tokyo, warned that one of his busiest

Marelli fans are hot sellers, refurbished to their brassy glory (\$40 for a small desk fan and \$200 or more for a large floor model). War memorabilia competes for attention with old-style opium pipes in silver or bone (\$15-\$20) and leather goods (ostrich, crocodile, snake, elephant or more traditional hides). For eco-friendly shoppers, a novel recycling project gives aluminum cans new life as planes, trains and automobiles (\$1-\$3). This family enterprise at 15 Le Loi street exports to France, Germany and the U.K. With advance notice they can make most anything — a star, a creche or even a jolly St. Nick with a sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. (Carey Zesiger)

LONDON

Not in at least 30 years has anyone anywhere dared to call Britain trendy. But with magazines recently trumpeting London as the world capital of cool, a new cultural self-confidence has gripped the land. Beneficiaries of the new narcissism include Brit popper Oasis, the group billed as the biggest British band since the Beatles. Sales of Oasis' two albums and video are brisk, as is the "real story" of the group's two leading lights, Noel and Liam Gallagher, written by their elder brother. It reveals a family that rivals the Windsors for the title of Britain's most dysfunctional. London hotels and restaurants report a surge in

Post-Robuchon Dining, Where the Memory Lingers On

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Consider it Robuchon without Robuchon. All the same familiar facets in the dining room, the same (or close to same) flavors from the kitchen, a little trip down memory lane. When Joel Robuchon retired from the day-to-day business of running a restaurant last July, he never intended to retire his chef's hat or his influence on French cuisine. He wanted out of the business, while staying in the business, and he held the joker, all the while managing to deal the first hand. He chose the route of "consultant," meaning he got to choose the team, call the plays, make a living while his le-

gendary cuisine stayed alive. The result is a small and smashing beautiful dining room in a nondescript part of the 8th arrondissement, a hotel restaurant in the newly refurbished Hotel Astor.

The gray-and-white striped dining room is cozy, Art Deco, sumptuous and spacious, just right for special meals or doing business. The dining room staff is headed by former sommelier Antoine Hernandez, now playing the role of maître d'hôtel (which the French have somehow transformed into the modern title of *directeur de salle*). In the kitchen is Eric Lecerf, a longtime Robuchon acolyte who translates Robuchon's food as well as any human might without the benefit of his constant presence or unlimited beuty of chefs. The Astor is as close as anyone will

get to Robuchon's cooking today, and that's not half bad. If Lecerf manages to deliver 85 percent of the orders most of the time, that's pretty wonderful, considering the challenge.

TRADITIONAL FAVORITES Many of the Robuchon signatures are there: If you crave (or never had) the famed potato purée, the roasted guinea hen, the salad of potatoes, black truffles, tomatoes and Parmesan, then this is your chance. If you want to sample the deep-fried merlan (whiting) or the veal sweetbreads and veal kidneys or the legendary cream brûlée, they are waiting for you. Not to mention the side menu of "plats de la mémoire," the most famous (and most expensive) of Robuchon's repertoire, including his ravioli of langoustine,

cauliflower cream soup with caviar jelly, or wild hare a la royale.

And if you have no memories, is there reason to go? Yes. The Astor has been created by some of the best people working in the business today, and if they can't make a go of it, France might as well fold up shop. Forget the traditional negative aspects of a hotel dining room: Find this one right out of the Hollywood image of the '40s. Forget the baggage and focus on the present.

I dare any chef to astonish and please your palate more with the *cannellonis d'aubergines*, a rich and evasively complex cannelloni that rolls sweet eggplant, fresh tuna, olive oil and tomatoes into a seriously satisfying first course. The langoustines *juste rôties* are sleekly sumptuous and the tiny milk-fed leghs

lamb braised then roasted is so delicious in its falling-apart moistness I dare most any cook to do the same in his own kitchen. The roast pigeon, the veal kidneys and sweetbreads, the fried whiting, and the sole cooked in its skin follow suit. They parade around saying, "This is who I am, in all simplicity." This is food cooked by those who understand that the ingredient is master, not the chef.

HAT said, there are dishes that fall short of the mark. I found the first course shrimp salad (*crevettes de Leucate*) bland and without much interest. The Asian-inspired *soupe folichonne* is a brilliant blend of ginger, chicken, clams and coriander, but awkward to eat in a gastronomic setting; and the prune

and lime dessert, *tarte fine caramélisée aux pruneaux et citron vert*, is delicious but comes off as amateurish compared to the other sophisticated offerings.

Except for the "memory lane" dishes priced at 290 to 540 francs (\$55-\$105) per serving, an effort has been made to keep prices within reach of the average diner. Some wine bargains include the 1995 white Bordeaux, Doisy Daene at 195 francs, the rare 1995 St. Joseph from J.L. Chave at 250 francs and the lesser known 1994 Domaine Richeaume Cotes de Provence at 250 francs. L'Astor, 11 rue d'Astorg, 75008 Paris; tel: 01 55 05 05 20. Closed Saturday and Sunday. All major credit cards. 290 franc lunch menu, including wine and service. A la carte, 400 to 700 francs, including service but not wine.

LEISURE

Pattaya Cleans Up Image (But Not Sea)

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

PATTAYA, Thailand — In a vestige of the Vietnam War, nearly two-thirds of the people who visit Thailand today are men, many of them coming for the kind of red-light district R-and-R that attracted soldiers on leave from the battlefields. Thailand is working hard to change that image, and its efforts are most visible here 80 miles (130 kilometers) southeast of Bangkok at the beach resort of Pattaya, which was first popularized by American G.I.'s in the early 1960s.

"Historically, Pattaya has had a little bit of a difficult reputation," said David Holden, director of sales for the 988-room Royal Cliff Beach Resort that overlooks the city from a high bluff.

"We have always had the sort of night life that you would expect

troops coming from a war would be looking for."

The red-light district, with its nightclubs, discos and female boxing shows, is still Pattaya's defining landmark. It is as if the AIDS epidemic were not sweeping through Thailand, as it is elsewhere in Asia. "But inexorably," Holden said, "we are developing Pattaya as a family resort city, as a resort fit for all."

Along its beachfront, Pattaya now offers scuba diving, para-sailing and jet skis. There are bowling alleys, tennis courts and eight nearby golf courses. The city is crowded with fine restaurants, fast-food outlets, duty-free stores, cinemas, shopping malls, a Ripley's Believe It or Not museum and a vast new disco.

"We want Pattaya and the eastern seaboard to become a major center of the Thai economy, both as a center of tourism and business," said Sereed Wangpachit, who heads the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

In its brochures, the resort now promotes itself as a destination for families and business conferences, hardly mentioning its night life. But development has brought other problems, including air and water pollution. In response, the government has begun a \$145 million program of new roads and transportation, land reclamation, beautification and water and sewage treatment.

"Obviously, it is hard to sell a beach destination where it is unwise to swim in the sea," Holden said.

SELLING THAILAND The development of Pattaya is part of a sophisticated repackaging of Thailand as an all-purpose tourist destination. Package tours are proliferating, offering trips to beaches, hill tribes and historical sites.

Bangkok's red-light district, Patpong Road, has recently added a night market, where families can be seen shopping for souvenirs in front of the

flashing neon signs of go-go bars. But most tourists quickly pass through Bangkok, where the historic canals have mostly been paved over and traffic gridlock has set in.

Sereed said that the average stay in Bangkok is just a day or two, while foreign visitors to Pattaya stay for more than four days on average. Tourism revenue in Pattaya last year totaled nearly \$1 billion, with most of it coming from European and other foreign visitors, he said.

All of this means that a traveler looking for sand, surf and palm trees must now look elsewhere. Pattaya, which once was filled with clamor and energy all day long, is no longer a quiet beach town, but a city bustling with the business of tourism.

Development has brought traffic jams to Pattaya, too, making it one of the few beach resorts in the world where traffic policemen wear masks to avoid breathing polluted air.

MOVIE GUIDE

EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU

Directed by Woody Allen.

U.S.

It falls to Edward Norton to get the ball rolling. Norton, the savvy new actor who made such a strong impression this year in "Primal Fear" and the soon-to-be released "The People vs. Larry Flynt," is the first person in Woody Allen's new musical comedy to throw caution to the winds, open his mouth and let go. As the film begins with enchanting glimpses of Central Park in springtime, Norton begins singing "Just You, Just Me," and the moment comes as a complete shock. The shock is that it works so well. Not in musical terms: Norton is no one's idea of a real singer, and he looks every bit as uncomfortable as he should. But "Everyone Says I Love You" treats its music more fondly than seriously anyhow. The songs, sweetly romantic chestnuts, are mostly a way to evoke the madcap, impossible world that Allen means to conjure. The story glides from New York's Upper East Side to lovely locations in Venice and Paris, and it manages wonderfully clever costume events on both Halloween (a singing, trick-or-treating Chiquita Banana) and Christmas Eve (fabulous French Grouches). The film, like its characters, is always ready for stylish urbanity and movie magic. Goldie

Hawn plays the obligatory Allen ex-lover, a role that has more substance than usual this time. While still hand-holding her former husband, Joe Berlin (Allen), Hawn's Steffi also presides with her new mate, Bob (Alan Alda), over a big, bustling household. And she finds time for a minor career as a limousine liberal. The least successful part of "Everyone Says I Love You," musically and otherwise, is the subplot that has Joe wooing the beautiful, unhappily married Von (Julia Roberts). Through these scenes unfold in the film's most ravishing European settings (e.g., the candlelit courtyard of a Venetian palazzo), they have a halfhearted, weary tone. But "Everyone Says I Love You" will be better remembered for its high notes, like the dance beside the Seine with Allen and Hawn, which seems to capture the full wistful, hopeful range of his idea of romance. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

NOT BAD FOR A GIRL

Directed by Lisa Rose.

U.S.

Courtney Love is one rock performer who has never been at a loss for words. And in "Not Bad for a Girl," Lisa Rose Apramian's noisy documentary study of female hard-rockers, she is given the movie's parting shot. Instead of having to get the football captain, she advises, "Be the football captain." In an even

A scene from Allen's "Everyone Says I Love You."

more hyperbolic mode, she also describes herself as "a Christ figure" who is "trying to heal" and identifies with Vincent van Gogh. Love is one of the two most articulate performers interviewed for the movie, whose subtitle, "an analytic approach to the functions of music and gender deconstruction," accurately describes the filmmaker's agenda. The other is Joan Jett, the tough but dignified, deep-voiced leader of the groundbreaking all-female '70s band, the Run-

chopping up the interviews into snippets that are so short that continuity is often lost. (Stephen Holden, NYT)

DAYLIGHT

Directed by Rob Cohen.

U.S.

Sylvester Stallone does the Shelley Winters dog paddle in "Daylight," a sordid subterranean thriller drawn from such '70s disaster yarns as "The Poseidon Adventure" and the "Airport" movies. The overworked genre was subsequently parodied in "Airplane!" and "The Big Bus," but Sly has never hesitated to remount the Italian Stallion. So what's to stop him from boarding another leaky vessel? Stallone, rumor had it, was planning to combine the exploits of his iconic characters in a film where the trip-wire vet rescues the boxing champ from Arab terrorists. "Rocky VII, Rambo IV." However, the role he assumes here has much more in common with the rock-climbing ranger he played in "Cliffhanger" than with either of those hoodlums. While he may not be as buoyant as Winters in "Poseidon," he does share her tendency to play the premier whale in the water ballet. The camera finds poetry in the flex of his glutes and the curve of his hips, yet Sly is reluctant to shed his duds. He even swims in his socks. (Rita Kempley, WP)

ARTS GUIDE

Tibetan sacred sculptures and "thangka" are on view in Barcelona.

BRITAIN

BRUSSELS Palais des Beaux-Arts, tel. (2) 507-9469, closed Mondays. Continuing to Jan. 5: "Victor Horta." Documents the Belgian architect's evolution from art nouveau to a more classical style.

FRANCE

EDINBURGH Scottish National Portrait Gallery, tel. (31) 322-2266, open daily. To Feb. 23: "Portrait Miniatures from the Collection of the Duke of Buccleuch." 75 miniatures, dating from 1480 to 1822, including royal portraits from the Tudor and Stuart dynasties by Hans Holbein and the British miniaturists Nicholas Hilliard, Isaac Oliver, John Hoeskins and Samuel Cooper.

GERMANY

LEIPSIG Henry Moore Institute, tel. (113) 246-7467, open daily. To April 6: "The Color of Sculpture." Demonstrates the methods and materials used by 19th- and 20th-century artists to supply color to their sculptures. The exhibition includes works by Camille Claudel, Gauguin, Fernand Léger, Max Klinger, Picasso, Renoir and Rodin.

JAPAN

LONDON Hayward Gallery, tel. (171) 928-3144, open daily. To Feb. 23: "Beyond Reason: Art and Psychology: Works from the Pinchom Collection." More than 200 works created by patients in European psychiatric hospitals between 1890 and 1920, from the collection gathered by the German art historian and psychiatrist Hans Prinzhorn (1886-1933). The collection inspired artists such as Paul Klee, Max Ernst and the Surrealists.

NETHERLANDS

PARIS Grand Palais, tel. 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing to Jan. 20: "Picasso et le Portrait." Institut du Monde Arabe, tel. 01-40-39-91, closed Mondays. Continuing to March 2: "L'Ombre d'Avicenne: La Médecine au Temps des Califes." The development of medicine in Arabic countries between the 9th and 13th centuries.

NETHERLANDS

GRONINGEN Groninger Museum, tel. (50) 666-555, closed Mondays. To Feb. 2: "Johan Dijkstra (1896-1978): The Retrospective." Paintings in bright colors, linear etchings and woodcuts in black and white typify his work in the 1920s. Later on, Dijkstra concentrated on colored glass and mosaic, but returned to landscapes in drawings, oils and watercolors after World War II.

NETHERLANDS

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BRUNNEN Neues Museum Weizenburg Bremen, tel. (421) 598-380, closed Mondays. Continuing to Feb. 2: "Picasso, Guston, Miro, De Kooning: Painting for Themselves: Late Works."

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STUTTGART Staatgalerie, tel. (711) 212-4074, closed Mondays. To Feb. 16: "Tippolo und die Zeichnungen (Tippolo und die Zeichnungen der Venetian School)." A celebration of the 300th anniversary of the 18th-century artist.

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JERUSALEM The Israel Museum, tel. (2) 708-811, open daily. To June 1: "Empire of the Sultans: Ottoman Art from the Collection of Nassar D. Khalil." 200 works — calligraphy, Korans, manuscripts, arms and armor, metalwork, ceramics, textiles and scientific instruments — explore every aspect of life in the Ottoman Empire, from military achievement to religious devotion.

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TOKYO Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, tel. (3) 3280-0031, closed Mondays. Continuing to Dec. 23: "Japan Through the Eyes of W. Eugene Smith." A three series of works by the American photojournalist.

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GRONINGEN Groninger Museum, tel. (50) 666-555, closed Mondays. To Feb. 2: "Johan Dijkstra (1896-1978): The Retrospective." Paintings in bright colors, linear etchings and woodcuts in black and white typify his work in the 1920s. Later on, Dijkstra concentrated on colored glass and mosaic, but returned to landscapes in drawings, oils and watercolors after World War II.

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BARCELONA Fundació La Caixa, tel. (3) 404-60-73, closed Tuesdays. To Jan. 12: "Tibetan Sacred Art." Nearly 200 pieces of sculpture and "thangka" (roll-up paintings on fabric used as an aid to meditation) take us through the different religious spheres that have the most representative characters and deities in Tibetan Buddhism.

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GENEVA Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, tel. (22) 311-43-40, closed Mondays. To May 4: "Lumières de l'Orient Chrétien." On loan from a private Lebanese collection, more than 140 Greek, Melchite and Russian icons.

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NEW YORK Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel. (212) 570-3781, closed Mondays. Continuing to Jan. 19: "Corot: A large selection of paintings by the French landscape painter (1796-1875)." Museum of Modern Art, tel. (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. Continuing to Jan. 7: "Antoni Gaudí: Works on Paper." A large selection of drawings by the Catalan architect (1868-1926).

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NEW YORK Museum of Modern Art, tel. (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. Continuing to Jan. 7: "Antoni Gaudí: Works on Paper." A large selection of drawings by the Catalan architect (1868-1926). The first comprehensive study of the group of New York-based artists who completed the American branch of the Dada movement. Includes works by Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray and Francis Picabia, among others.

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CLOSING SOON Dec. 15: "Blumenfeld: A Feast for the Senses." Baroque Art Gallery, London. Dec. 15: "The Age of Dürer: German Renaissance Prints from the British Museum." National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh. Dec. 15: "Masterpieces from the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg." ATC Museum, Osaka, Japan. Dec. 15: "Cindy Sherman." Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. Dec. 16: "The Path to Enlightenment." Identikit Museum of Arts, Tokyo. Dec. 15: "Louis I. Kahn Drawings: Travel Sketches and Synagogue Projects." The Jewish Museum, New York. Dec. 15: "Gauguin and the School of Pont-Aven." Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Dec. 16: "Signer Polke Photos: When Pictures Vanish." The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington.

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LEISURE

It's Already Summer in Sydney

For Arts, Food and Outdoor Fun, 'Tis the Season

By Debbie Seaman

SYDNEY — Summer, when Sydney Harbor teems with brightly colored sailboats and, casually dressed Australians flock to outdoor cafes, is also the season to sample the city's arts.

Sydney's status as a lively cultural center will be especially evident in January during the Sydney Festival, the city's largest arts event. Concentrated in the area of Circular Quay, the hub of downtown Sydney, the festival offers concerts, theater, dance and art exhibitions, outdoors as well as in.

For food and wine lovers, the city also boasts a burgeoning restaurant and cafe scene. Far from the stereotypical meat pie and "sheep on the barbie" fare, Sydney's offerings include imaginative dishes using native seafood and game, often with Asian or Mediterranean touches.

And the countdown has begun to the Olympic Games in 2000. The city's colorful new Olympic logo, incorporating both aboriginal boomerangs and the lines of the Sydney Opera House, is conspicuous everywhere. Sydney's spectacular harbor setting and sporting spirit — people can be seen jogging, sailing, kayaking and surfing year-round — make Olympic fever easy to catch.

All prices quoted are in U.S. dollars.

In Sydney, call 13-1500 for information about buses, ferries and trains.

FESTIVAL FEVER Among the highlights of the Sydney Festival, Jan. 8 to 26, is the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's *Symphony Under the Stars*, a free per-

formance Jan. 18 at 8 P.M. at the Domain, a downtown park adjacent to the Royal Botanic Gardens. The lineup also features several concerts of gypsy music, Jan. 13 to 18, mostly at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall; Dance Brazil, performances by the Bale Folclorico da Bahia, Jan. 20 to 25, at the Opera House; and "The Beatification of Area Boy," a play by the Nobel Prize-winning Nigerian author Wole Soyinka, to be performed Jan. 13 to Feb. 1 at the Seymour Center at Sydney University in Chippendale, a suburb south of downtown Sydney. The festival culminates on the Australia Day public holiday, Jan. 26, with ferry races, starting at Circular Quay at 11 A.M.

For information, call the festival office at (61 2) 9265-0444. In the Sydney area, call 00555-1997 for schedules. Admission to ticketed events is \$17 to \$29; call (61 2) 9266-4111 or (61 2) 9320-9111. For information on the festival over the Internet, contact www.sydneyfestival.org.au.

The Australian Opera summer season at the Sydney Opera House includes Mozart's "Clemenza di Tito," on various dates from Jan. 2 to 25; Richard Strauss's "Ariadne auf Naxos," Jan. 7 to Feb. 4; Verdi's "Traviata," Jan. 20 to March 1; Johann Strauss's "Fledermaus," Jan. 31 to March 3, and Donizetti's "Daughter of the Regiment," Feb. 13 to March 4. To reserve tickets, which cost from \$60 to \$109, call (61 2) 9319-1088.

Shakespeare by the Sea, with alternating performances of "Twelfth Night" and "Measure for Measure," can be seen weekend evenings until March 2 at the Band Rotunda at Bal-

moral Beach on Sydney Harbor. Donations of at least \$8.75 are requested. A ferry from Circular Quay to the Taronga Park Zoo connects with the No. 238 bus to Bal-moral Beach, about \$3.50 one way. A cab is about \$17. Call (61 2) 9557-3065.

"Romeo and Juliet Under the Stars," directed by Glen Elston, plays in the Royal Botanic Gardens Tuesday through Sunday at 8 P.M. from Jan. 6 through March. Tickets start at \$24.55; call (61 2) 9266-4800. The gardens' Henry Lawson Gate is off Mrs. Macquaries Road.

ONE of the best and least expensive introductions to Sydney departs from Circular Quay: the half-hour ferry ride to Manly, a seaside suburb on the isthmus between the Pacific Ocean and North Harbor. Cruising past the Opera House and Harbor Bridge and out into the open harbor, the ferry, which costs \$3.25 one way, provides glimpses of tiny islands, intriguing inlets and beaches and even unspoiled bush.

The journey ends at Manly, where the Corso pedestrian walkway to Ocean Beach leads to another walkway, to the right, along the water. This takes you to exquisite Shelly Beach, about 25 minutes one way.

Government House, the magnificent late-1830s Gothic Revival mansion where the New South Wales governors lived until the Labor Party government restored the building to the public last January, was opened last March for free guided tours. Its largely Victorian interior may be viewed Friday through Sunday, with tours leaving about every half-hour from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.



For ambience, it's hard to top the Catalina Rose Bay restaurant in Lyne Park overlooking Sydney's harbor. NYT

The Hermitage Foreshore Scenic Walk, less than a mile one way, is a syvan trail leading from Rose Bay in Sydney's eastern suburbs through Nielsen Park, about 50 verdant acres (20 hectares) on the harbor. Although you can see the Opera House and Harbor Bridge, the walkway also gives a sense of what Sydney must have been like before it was settled. Near the end of the walk is Nielsen Park's narrow strip of beach, complete with a steel shark net protecting a swimming area for those who want to cool off.

AUSTRALIAN CUISINE

In late September, Stefano Manfredi, a chef, and his partner and ex-wife, Julie Manfredi-Hughes, opened Bel Mondo, (61 2) 9241-3700, at the top of the new

Argyle Department Store at 12 Argyle Street, The Rocks. The restaurant offers views of the Harbor Bridge as well as specialties like a first course of Yamba king prawn cutlets with lamb's lettuce and garlic mayonnaise and a main course of barbecued duck with balsamic vinegar. Dessert includes the popular tartufo with coconut custard. A three-course meal for two with a modest wine is about \$131. As with most better Sydney restaurants, reservations are recommended.

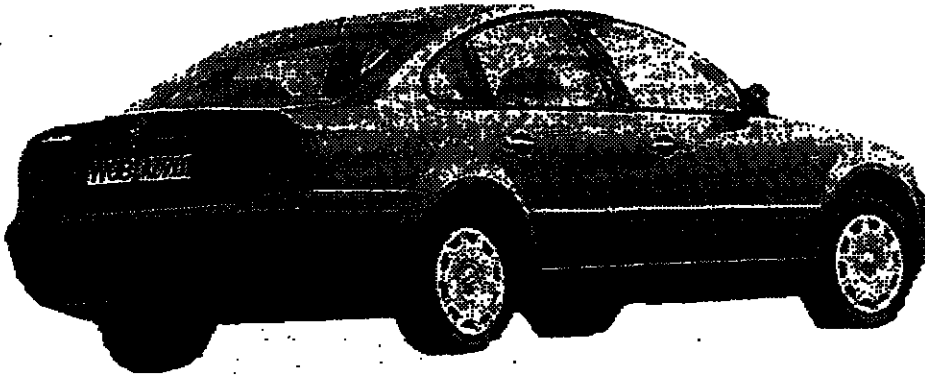
For ambience, it's hard to top a table on the deck at the sleek Catalina Rose Bay, (61 2) 9371-0555, perched at the harbor's edge in Lyne Park, next to the Rose Bay Ferry Wharf. The menu here changes periodically, but the mainstays of the chef, John Vanderveer, include a millefeuille of ocean trout, spinach and

red wine butter. Passion fruit soufflé is a favorite dessert. A meal for two with wine is about \$121.

The bright, modern Star Grill, (61 2) 9211-9888, which opened in late September in the Imax theater complex on the Southern Promenade at Darling Harbor, just west of the city, is the latest production by the chef Neil Perry, creator of Rockpool at The Rocks and Wockpool in Potts Point. I had a starter of warm potato and parmesan salad with truffle oil, followed by the slow-roasted lamb with a mint-infused dressing. Prune and Armagnac brulee trifle is a favorite dessert. Dinner for two with wine is about \$93.

Debbie Seaman, an American freelance journalist who lives in Sydney, wrote this for The New York Times.

VW of Audi Ancestry: The New Passat Is Something to Look At



By Gavin Green

THE Beetle was Volkswagen's one bit of whimsy, but since then VW has had straight, solid and usually stolid cars all the way. And, of all the Volkswagens, no model has been quite so dull as the Passat. Passats are to cars what Bob Dole is to politics:

THE CAR COLUMN

trustworthy but completely unexciting.

They are usually bought by people who aspire to a big Volvo or Mercedes but can't afford one. When they get old they frequently become taxis, for cab drivers value their longevity, their roominess and their dependability. They are never bought by people who like cars or like to drive.

Until now, that is. The new Passat looks good — great even. It has a range of high-

Volkswagen Passat 1.8 turbo About \$27,000. Four-cylinder, 20-valve turbo engine, 1781cc, 150 BHP at 5,700 rpm. Top speed: 223 KPH (139 MPH). Acceleration: 0-100 KPH in 8.7 seconds. Average fuel consumption: 8.9 liters/100 KM.

performance engines, including a V-6, a V-5 (a new configuration, that one) and a turbo four-cylinder, as tested. Those who previously valued the Passat's utter anonymity will now have to shop elsewhere.

The new Passat is actually an Audi. It's part of the grand plan of the former purchasing and production director, Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, to

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

not please every VW director, some of whom subscribed to the old-fashioned notion that a Volkswagen should be a Volkswagen.

The upshot is that the Passat uses Audi suspension, Audi engines and Audi everything else, apart from the body and cabin. It drives like an Audi A4 — which means it drives very well. It handles sharply and rides well, if not with quite the suppleness of a Peugeot 406 or a Renault Laguna. Like all Passats, its build appears bullet-proof. And, unlike all other Passats, it looks great.

THE latest Passat sits low on the road, square-shouldered, skin pulled tight over firm muscles. It is quite the best-looking car in the class.

About the only downside of the Audi ancestry is that the engines are now mounted north-south rather than the more conventional (for a front-wheel-drive car) crosswise or

transverse layout. A transverse engine liberates more fore-aft space. The new Passat has less cabin length than the old one, even if it is longer externally.

It's in rear legroom where old Passat owners will notice the difference. But as the old Passat had enough rear legroom for a retired Harlem Globetrotter with stiff knees, so most of us shorter than six-and-a-

half feet will still be able to sit comfortably in the back. The trunk is also vast.

I haven't tried the novel V-5 engine yet — it's a development of the excellent VW VR-6 unit — but the Audi V-6 engine goes like a train and so does the turbo 1.8 engine, as tested. It's identical to the Audi A4's 1.8 turbo, including the unusual

five-valve-per-cylinder layout. Performance is not only strong but turbine-smooth.

In most markets, the Passat is good value — another departure for VW, which, hamstrung by the high value of the Deutsche mark, is usually among the pricier cars in its class.

In all, it's probably the best car in the sector, as well as

being the classiest family car we've seen in ages. Passat traditionalists will have to put up with the eye-catching looks, although when there are loads of them about, people will stop looking quite so much.

Next: The Renault Scenic

Gavin Green is the editor in chief of Car magazine.

BOOKS

WIZARD

The Life and Times of Nikola Tesla: A Biography of a Genius

By Mark J. Seifer. 542 pages. \$32. Birch Lane.

Reviewed by Betsyann Holtzmann Kevles

HAS the life of Nikola Tesla, the man whose name is honored as a unit of magnetic strength, really been forgotten and his later discoveries deliberately suppressed? Mark J. Seifer, who teaches psychology and graphology at community colleges in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, has spent the last two decades investigating and writing about this strange inventor and suggests that it has. Seifer is unabashedly hagiographic. Tesla's enemies are his enemies; Tesla's scientific claims are for the most part undisputed.

By any measure, Tesla was a very strange man. He lived alone in hotel rooms, took daily "electric baths," scarcely ate or slept and avoided touching other people. After emigrating to America in 1884, he established himself as a brilliant "electrician." This was the world of Edison and Westinghouse — inventors who also worked with electromagnetism and devised remarkable machines, from the phonograph to generators, before the physics of electricity and magnetism were completely understood.

By 1893 Tesla had perfected a system of alternating current. Before the end of the century, he had also invented the fluorescent light bulb and established some of the principles of wireless telegraphy, remote control and radio.

Seifer is good at describing Tesla's lack of practical, economic and personal judgment and the way his enormous ego invited unscrupulous partners. Much of his work was pirated, and he seldom got royalties on what he had patented. But his plight was not unusual. The Wright brothers spent years fighting patent infringements, as did Alexander Graham Bell.

Tesla's entry into New York society coincided with a craze for spiritualism, which reinforced Tesla's faith in mystical forces. He was not alone in connecting electromagnetism with the occult. The best chapter in Seifer's book describes late 19th-century science fic-

tion and locates Tesla's projects among other predictions of the future. These include an 1895 novel that predicted picture telephones, air travel from the United States to Europe in a day, hidden phonographs with which police could trap criminals and the colonization of the solar system.

Tesla's effort in the last decades of his life to create a particle-beam weapons system was also in tune with the times, and it is not surprising that at his death in 1943 during World War II his papers were confiscated by the FBI.

Outrageous that Tesla never received a Nobel Prize, Seifer laments out at Albert Einstein, who did. He calls Einstein "the Nobel Prize-winning upstart" and dismisses him as "a theorist, whereas Tesla, as hands-on creator of new technologies, was able to prove out his assumptions in the everyday world."

Tesla is not forgotten, as Seifer's bibliography indicates, although a balanced biography remains to be written. But it is true, as Seifer notes, that neither he nor Edison, for that matter, is revered as Einstein is. A biographer might well ask why we admire our inventors but choose mathematical dreamers as our secular saints.

Betsyann Holtzmann Kevles, author of the forthcoming *Naked to the Bone: Medical Imaging in the Twentieth Century*, wrote this for The Washington Post.

FISHING THE SLOE-BLACK RIVER

By Colum McCann. 196 pages. \$22. Metropolitan/Henry Holt.

Reviewed by Ambrose Clancy

IRELAND's tradition of emigration informs and unifies this fine collection from Colum McCann, author of the well-received novel "Songdogs." Rilke, writing of exile, both spiritual and geographic, asked, "Who's turned us around like this/so that whatever we do, we always have/ the look of someone going away?"

Ireland's answer to the poet's question is the unforgiving force of history, a fact of Irish life as real, as omnipresent, as the weather.

In "Sisters," the beautiful lead story,

McCann invokes images of the past three times within the first three pages. He tells the story of two sisters who leave Mayo, one for a wild life in California ("My promiscuity was my autobiography"), one as a nun in the wars of Central America. We hear of a "Celtic cross commemorating the dead of Ireland," a special rock in a bog from "penal times" (a time when draconian English laws crushed the people of the West) and a particular torture employed by Cromwellian forces. When the young nun is dying in a convent on Long Island, her sister goes to her, telling her lover why she believes her sister has fallen ill. "She is sick, I tell him, because she was heartbroken among the magpie plants. She is sick because there are soldiers on the outskirts of town who carry Kalashnikovs or AK-47s, hammering the barrels through the brick kilns that make the dough rise. She is sick because she saw things that she thought belonged only in Irish history."

To escape, to find opportunity and the vision of a wider world, can seem as simple as boarding an airplane for North America or catching the boat to Britain. But part of the immigrant is forever torn, always in the act of going away, never quite at home in the new land.

Perhaps the best story of the 12 collected here is "Stolen Child." The great character at its center, Padraic, is a social worker in a Brooklyn home for impoverished blind children, "those forgotten blind children, the snarlers of society." There is nothing sentimental about the place. It is a swarming home of rage and despair. And there is nothing sentimental about Padraic, who is a walking definition of the blues: a good man feeling bad. A black girl, Dana, who is brought back from oblivion through kindness, attention and tales of Irish mythology, is to be married to an embittered, wheelchair-trapped Vietnam vet. Padraic is to give the bride away, a dreaded task. He sees nothing but disaster in the union, and we see how right he is. There will be no happily-ever-after for these two. "Stolen Child" is a story worthy of Cheever and Chekhov.

Ambrose Clancy, the author of "Blind Pilot" and "The Nightline," wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE best book of 1996 in the area of defensive play is certainly Mike Lawrence's "Opening Leads."

The book — available for \$20.95, including mailing, from C&T Bridge Supplies, 3838 Catalina Street, Los Alamitos, California 90720 — adds to Lawrence's considerable output of high-level technical books. It covers a difficult area in great detail, in a manner that is useful to all players from intermediate to expert. Instead of avoiding

difficult lead problems, the author searches for them.

In the 70 pages of quizzes with which the book ends, the reader is asked to select a lead with a given hand against different auctions.

If something very unusual happens in the bidding, the leader must consider what it means. In the diagrammed auction, East, who has shown a weak hand by his opening pre-emptive bid, emerges from the bushes with a double of a game contract that the opponent clearly expects to make. What is he up to?

West should realize that the double cannot be based on high-card strength. It is the equivalent of a Lighter double of a slam and strongly suggests a void suit.

The message: lead your longest suit, partner, and I will ruff to get us off to a good start.

So West carefully selects the club two, a rare example of a suit preference message on opening lead. East ruffs, and correctly interprets the signal. West wants a diamond return, not a heart, and gains the lead in time to provide a second ruff and defeat the contract by two tricks.

NORTH			
♠ J5			
♥ K54			
♦ Q73			
♣ KQ84			
WEST			
♠ K4			
♥ 7			
♦ A62			
♣ J1087532			
SOUTH (D)			
♠ A Q 10 8 7 6 5			
♥ A 6			
♦ J 5			
♣ A 6			

Both sides are vulnerable. The bidding: East 3♥ Pass South 4♣ Pass West 4♠ Pass North Pass

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Stocks Dive As Investors Grow Wary Of Market

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks plunged Thursday as investors decided to lock in profits despite indications that the economy was growing moderately and inflation was in check.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished down 98.81 points at 6,303.71, with losing issues topping gains ones by a 4-to-3 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

Worries that interest rates could be headed higher and a mixed outlook for fourth-quarter corporate profits stoked speculation that individual, smaller investors would begin to pull their money from stocks and find other investments.

"The psychology of the market has really changed," said Michael Metz, market strategist at Oppenheimer & Co. "There is anecdotal evidence that cash is drying up."

Purchases of stock funds trailed off in early December, even before Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, suggested last week that the central bank would have to guard against an "exuberant" stock market.

Some analysts said Mr. Greenspan was trying to talk the market lower, and may even be preparing to increase interest rates — if not this month, then after the first of the year.

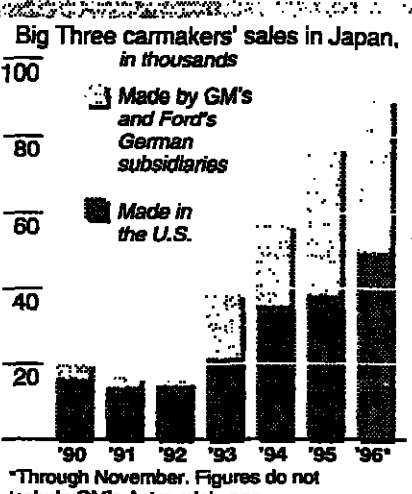
In the first week of December, investors pulled about \$400 million from stocks funds, according to AMG Data Services. The next weekly report will be released early Friday.

That trend might worsen, Gail Dack, an analyst at UBS Securities, wrote Thursday in a report to clients. "Volatility is here to stay," she wrote.

"What effect the recent volatility will have on the public's perception of equities is yet to be seen. We would not be surprised if this week's price volatility slows flows as well."

The stock sell-off came despite a relatively stable Treasury bond market, which was supported by a drop in retail sales last month, which in turn reduced

See PLUNGE, Page 16



Japanese consumers have shunned Chrysler's Neon, left, and Chevrolet's Cavalier, right, in favor of better-known domestic brand names.

Despite Low Prices, U.S. Cars Struggle in Japan

By Andrew Pollack
New York Times Service

TOKYO — The Neon sat under a garish arch of rainbow-colored lights. But neither the glare nor the special low-interest financing was enough to attract even glances from the few customers at the Yokohama Chrysler dealer on recent Sunday.

"When the Neon was released, I think most Japanese were interested because of the price," said Kentaro Oba, 36, who, like most customers, was interested in the sleek Jeep Wrangler.

"But the Neon was delayed in coming to Japan, and in the meantime, Japanese companies have cut prices."

The Neon, once known in America

as the "Japan car killer" because of a base price under \$10,000 when it was introduced there in 1993, is instead getting killed in Japan. Chrysler Corp. has sold only about 900 of the cars since a specially made model with the steering wheel on the right went on sale in June. That means it will fall well short of its sales target of 4,000 by the end of the year.

The Neon is not alone. In the wake of an automobile trade agreement in June 1995, American automakers have aimed several small and midsize passenger cars at the Japanese market, and they are doing worse than expected.

The Ford Taurus, the best-selling car in the United States, is selling in Japan at only half the rate Ford Motor

Co. anticipated, and the Chevrolet Cavalier, which is being sold here by Toyota Motor Corp. under a closely watched cooperative experiment, is also falling short.

The U.S. Big Three cannot put the blame for their difficulties directly on the stronger dollar, which tends to raise the price of imports, because they have held their retail prices steady here, accepting lower profits instead.

The rise of the dollar is having an indirect effect, however, in that it has sharply lifted the profits of Japanese manufacturers, allowing them to mount advertising blitzes that caught the Americans flat-footed.

"We were so surprised, but it was too late to revise the budget," said

Osamu Nagata, vice president for marketing at Chrysler Japan Sales.

The slow starts for the Big Three's big three strategic vehicles show that merely introducing such cars with the steering wheel on the right — as Japan repeatedly had urged Detroit to do — will not by itself be enough to succeed in the Japanese market. It also means the advances of the American manufacturers in the Japanese market are starting to slow after big gains in the past three years. This contrasts with a surge in car exports to the United States reported last month. The two biggest Japanese automakers in the American market, Honda Motor Co.

See NEON, Page 19

German Unions Win Battle to Maintain Full Sick Pay

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — German workers struck another big regional wage agreement guaranteeing full pay during sick days Thursday, sealing the fate of plans to implement an unpopular law allowing cuts in sick pay.

The pact between the IG Metall union and employers in the auto, engineering and metals industries covers 650,000 workers in the southern state of Bavaria, averting strikes in the region.

The pact guarantees 100 percent of

pay in the event of sickness until 2001, though it excludes overtime from the calculation. It also provides for wage increases of 1.5 percent in April 1997 and 2.5 percent in 1998. A majority of Germany's 3.2 million metalworkers now have succeeded in heading off a 20 percent cut in sick pay after a campaign of demonstrations and walkouts.

The law, which came into force in October, was seen as a gift from Chancellor Helmut Kohl to employers who have long bemoaned Germany's high

labor costs. But employers in the engineering and banking sectors, faced with fierce worker resistance, have been unable to push the cuts through.

The chemical-sector trade union IG Chemie, which represents about 590,000 workers, said employers were now ready to resume wage talks next week, a sign that full sick pay may be maintained in that industry as well.

The head of the Federation of German Chambers of Commerce, Hans Peter Stuhl, attacked employers for

backing down. "The employers are evidently not able to organize a lockout in order to respond to strike action," he told the daily Hamburger Abendblatt in an interview to be published Friday.

But Gesamtmetall, an employers' association, called the agreements a "success of the sick-pay struggle."

Werner Riek, a Gesamtmetall spokesman, said, "All in all, we have very reasonable raises for 1997 and 1998, below productivity improvements." (Reuters, Bloomberg)

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Finally, Some Good News From Africa

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The news out of Africa these days is better than it has been for many years. That may seem a strange claim to make when the world's television screens are filled with scenes of terrible suffering in Zaire and Rwanda, and Zaire itself is in danger of collapse.

But there is more than one Africa. Some countries, especially in Central Africa, remain mired in poverty and despair, the prey of corrupt and repressive governments. Many more, however, are at last beginning to take faltering steps along the road to greater stability and prosperity.

In the words of a paper recently published by Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies, the crises in Africa's trouble spots are no more reflective of the whole continent than Bosnia is of Central Europe.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, a corridor of economic and political reform now stretches from Ethiopia and Eritrea to South Africa, and many West African countries are following suit.

"While many are still dazzled by the tigers of Asia, the fast-rising are recognizing that Africa could be a boom-region of the 21st century," said Malcolm Rifkind, Britain's foreign secretary, at the end of last month.

What is happening is that with the Cold War over and Western aid

budgets in permanent decline, more and more African governments are realizing that the era of aid-dependency is over and that the private sector must henceforth be the engine of growth.

They understand they will have to compete for foreign investment by liberalizing and privatizing their economies and helping entrepreneurship to flourish. That is the good news.

The bad news is that the good news has been so long in coming that Africa

A corridor of reform stretches from Ethiopia and Eritrea to South Africa.

has fallen far behind its developing country rivals in most of the rest of the world. Africa has 20 percent of the world's population but accounts for only 2 percent of world trade, according to Michael Samuels, a Washington trade and investment consultant. And that share has been falling.

Mr. Rifkind put the problem in stark terms: In 1965, Nigeria was richer than Indonesia and Ghana was richer than Thailand. Now Indonesia is three times as rich as Nigeria and Thailand is five times richer than Ghana.

It will not be easy for the Africans to catch up. In many countries the treatment of foreign investors leaves a great deal to be desired. Governments often

demand kickbacks or set impossible conditions on investments. The weight of state bureaucracy can be paralyzing, infrastructure is often poor and technology primitive.

The challenge for Western governments is to find ways of encouraging countries that are trying to become democratic market economies and penalizing those that are not. Increasingly, aid is being made conditional on good governance. But aid has only limited potential to help. It can do more harm than good, if it often still happens, it goes to inefficient or repressive governments rather than to help the emerging private sector.

Western markets are mostly already open to African products. A recent World Bank study found that Africa's poor export performance was due more to the African countries' own anti-competitive policies — such as high import duties and harmful transport regimes — than to trade barriers imposed by the industrial nations.

There are some things industrial countries can do; they can help with debt relief, promote private investment, help the flow of information technology and be more generous in opening their politically sensitive textiles markets.

But the main effort will have to come from the Africans themselves.

What is encouraging is that most African governments now understand this — and that the industrial countries now realize that all African countries are not the same.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	DM	FF	Yen	£	SFr	Scd	DKr	Other
Amsterdam	1.721	2.085	1.378	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Brexit	1.645	2.025	1.345	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Frankfurt	1.54	2.025	1.345	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
London 60	1.682	2.085	1.378	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Madrid	168.68	21.01	14.18	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Paris	168.68	21.01	14.18	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Stockholm	1.54	2.025	1.345	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Switzerland	1.482	2.025	1.345	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Tokyo	163.33	21.01	14.18	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
Zurich	1.54	2.025	1.345	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
1 ECU	1.254	2.025	1.345	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
1 SDR	1.482	2.025	1.345	163.33	1.936	1.482	1.255	1.232	
... Changes in Amsterdam, London, New York, Paris and Zurich follow in other centers									
... To buy one pound to buy one dollar: Units of 100 N.Z. not quoted N.A. not available									
Libor-Libor Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
9-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
12-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
18-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
24-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
36-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
48-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Key Money Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
9-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
12-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
18-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
24-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
36-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
48-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Other Dollar Values									
	Per \$	Per £	Per Sfr	Per DM	Per Yen	Per Scd	Per DKr	Per Nkr	Per ZAR
Argentina peso	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098
Australian \$	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551
Canadian \$	1.057	1.057	1.057	1.057	1.057	1.057	1.057	1.057	1.057
Chinese yuan	8.274	8.274	8.274	8.274	8.274	8.274	8.274	8.274	8.274
Czech koruna	20.36	20.36	20.36	20.36	20.36	20.36	20.36	20.36	20.36
Danish krone	6.46	6.46	6.46	6.46	6.46	6.46	6.46	6.46	6.46
East German mark	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Fin. markka	5.946	5.946	5.946	5.946	5.946	5.946	5.946	5.946	5.946
French franc	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555
German mark	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936
Italian lire	2.036	2.036	2.036	2.036	2.036	2.036	2.036	2.036	2.036
Japanese yen	163.33	163.33	163.33	163.33	163.33	163.33	163.33	163.33	163.33
South African rand	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551
Swedish krona	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66
Swiss franc	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Thai baht	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
U.S. dollar	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
West German mark	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936	1.936
Yugoslav dinar	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

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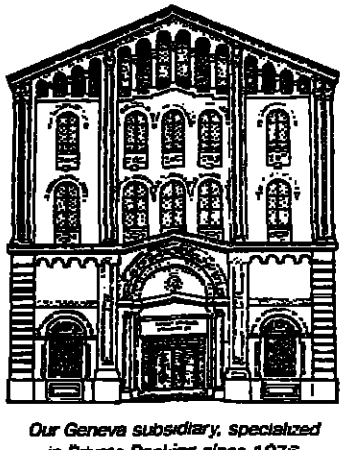
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EUROPE

Handelsbanken Bids For Mortgage Bank, Challenging Skandia

Bloomberg Business News
STOCKHOLM — Svenska Handelsbanken AB said Thursday it had offered 22.9 billion kronor (\$3.37 billion) in cash to acquire Skandia AB, the country's biggest mortgage lender.

The bid by Sweden's largest bank challenges an existing bid by Skandia Insurance AB, Sweden's leading insurer. Skandia had offered to acquire Handelsbanken in a stock swap that was valued at about 23 billion kronor when it was made.

The government, which is selling its 34 percent of Skandia, said it would accept Skandia's bid as long as a more attractive bid were not made. The Finance Ministry, which opposed the manner in which Skandia and Skandia Insurance AB negotiated their proposal, said it did not expect to receive a bid better than Handelsbanken's.

Both Skandia and Skandia Insurance said Thursday they needed time to review Handelsbanken's offer before commenting.

Handelsbanken said a takeover would lift its earnings per share by 15 percent and would cut costs by 700 million kronor a year. The bank said it would offer all Skandia employees continued employment after the takeover. After five years, if current market conditions continued, earnings per share could be up as much as 26 percent, the bank said.

Handelsbanken shares rose 4 percent to 196 kronor, while Skandia shares climbed 3.3 percent to 188 before the stocks were both suspended from trading.

After the acquisition, Handelsbanken expects to have 26.4 percent of the total Swedish loan market. Analysts said that share would fall to 23.8 percent over five years as competition increased.

The bid is conditional on Handelsbanken receiving 90 percent of Skandia's shares. It also is subject to approval by Swedish antitrust authorities.

Arne Maartensson, chief executive of Handelsbanken, said he would meet Friday with the Swedish Competition Authorities.

Seoul Legislators Assail Paris

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — South Korean legislators said Thursday that their country should retract a contract for a French high-speed train in retaliation for France's cancellation of the privatization of Thomson SA, which would have given Daewoo Electronics Co. of South Korea control of the French company's consumer-appliance division.

South Korean legislators denounced the cancellation as "chauvinism," and an opposition legislator called for retraction of a \$2-billion contract with the French builder GEC Alsthom to build a high-speed train.

France, meanwhile, invited Daewoo to make a new offer for Thomson Multimedia, which the government now plans to split off and sell separately from Thomson's other half, the defense contractor Thomson-CSF.

Last week, France abandoned a plan to sell all of Thomson because its privatization commission had objected to a plan for Lagardere group to buy the business and pass Thomson Multimedia on to Daewoo Electronics.

Under the initial plan, the state would have injected 11 billion francs (\$2.1 billion) of new capital into Thomson, but it was not known how much of this would have been applied to Thomson Multimedia, which has accumulated heavy losses.

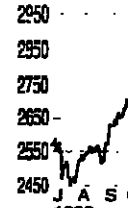
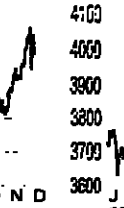

The government had intended to sell the entire company to Lagardere for a token one franc.

On Thursday, Finance Minister Jean Arthuis, speaking in conciliatory tones, said that nothing stood in the way of Daewoo bidding again for Thomson Multimedia.

"The French government will take every step to make known that there is no obstacle in the way of Korean companies, and Daewoo may be a candidate," he said.

Mr. Arthuis also said that under the second attempt to dispose of Thomson, the state would inject new capital of about 10 billion francs into Thomson Multimedia. He also said that Thomson-CSF would be privatized first and Thomson Multimedia would then be sold, "with determination," but

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris ... CAC 40		
				
2500 2550 2600 2650 2700 2750	4100 4000 3800 3600 3700 3800	2325 2250 2175 2100 2025 1950		
J A S O N D 1996	J A S O N D 1996	J A S O N D 1996		
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	611.41	610.56	+0.14
Brussels	BEL-20	1,862.88	1,871.55	-0.46
Frankfurt	DAX	2,847.08	2,841.05	+0.21
Copenhagen	Stock Market	460.38	461.06	-0.15
Helsinki	HEX General	2,437.32	2,434.25	+0.13
Oslo	OBX	512.84	510.71	+0.42
London	FTSE 100	3,996.70	3,982.50	+0.21
Madrid	Stock Exchange	405.43	405.27	+0.04
Milan	MBITEL	10,160.00	10,226.00	-0.65
Paris	CAC 40	2,212.11	2,213.28	-0.05
Stockholm	SX 16	2,481.86	2,427.23	+0.19
Vienna	ATX	1,121.90	1,121.88	Unch.
Zurich	SPI	2,465.23	2,464.85	+0.02

Source: Teletours

International Market Data

Source: Reuters International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Eurotunnel SA shareholders threatened to block a debt accord that rescued the company from bankruptcy if Britain and France refused to extend the company's 65-year operating lease on the Channel Tunnel.
- France Telecom will slash rates on telephone calls next year in preparation for telecommunications deregulation in 1998, but the state-owned monopoly said it would also raise some monthly subscription rates.
- Siemens AG plans to fire 6,000 workers in Germany in the next financial year in an effort to return to earnings growth in 1998. The company has said profit will be flat in the year to Sept. 30 because of low earnings from semiconductor.
- Wickes PLC plans to sell £53 million (\$87.8 million) in new shares to cut debt and restore future dividend payments. The building-materials retailer is facing a fraud investigation after admitting it overstated its 1995 profit.
- EA-Generali AG shares fell 8 percent as the insurer considered raising its 10 billion-schilling (\$292.7 million) group bid for Creditanstalt-Bankverein AG. Bank Austria AG has offered 15.1 billion schillings for Creditanstalt, Austria's biggest bank.

Bloomberg, Reuters

French Retailers Brace for Buyouts

Reuters

PARIS — The acquisition by France's largest retailer, Carrefour SA, of a big stake in Societe GMB, which controls the Cora hypermarkets chain, fanned speculation Thursday about consolidation in the French retail sector.

Carrefour acquired 33.34 percent of GMB on Wednesday for an undisclosed price.

Retail-sector shares were heavily traded on anticipation of more mergers between hypermarket chains in an effort to secure a strong position in the rapidly consolidating industry.

France's minister for small business, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, encouraged the speculation when he told the newspaper Le Figaro that he expected further consolidation.

"Other developments of this type are likely, since the French hypermarket sector has reached full capacity and companies want to become stronger to develop on a global scale," he said.

Mr. Raffarin was the author of a law enacted this year that inadvertently prompted the merger activity.

In a bid to protect small shops and city centers from the overwhelming competition presented by suburban supermarkets, he drafted a bill making it harder for big stores to open outlets or extend existing ones.

Shares in the most frequently cited takeover target, Casino, rose 4.2 percent, or 10 francs, to 246 francs (\$47.10) Thursday. Shares in its rumored suitor, Promodes SA, fell 0.4 percent, or 6 francs, to close at 1,386. Promodes is ranked fourth and Casino is ranked sixth in terms of sales.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, Dec. 12

Prices in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

ASEX 100 100 100 100

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In Brussels For Business

THE SMALL CAPITAL OF A small country a quarter of a century ago, Brussels is now a focus of the world stage, since European Union policies and decisions profoundly affect the international financial and trading systems.

Because Brussels is now a region, along with Flanders and Wallonia, it has its own government, but in many ways it remains a collection of small villages. This lack of pretension has preserved at least some of the city's pleasant diversity, though huge areas of interesting old buildings have fallen to the wrecking ball and the bulldozer as real estate developers have sought to cash in on the European future.

Brussels was formerly one of the cheapest capitals in Europe, but its new status has changed things and prices have risen steeply. Still, the Brusselsians have retained their sense of humor (often aimed at themselves), their welcome for foreigners and much of their traditional quality of life. Brussels is a comfortable city, with uncounted pubs, bistros and neighborhood stores where you're recognized on your second visit and considered a regular on your third.

At a Glance

Brussels has no clearly defined center. For most visitors, the handiest reference point is the Grand Place, with its magnificent Hotel de Ville (city hall) and gilded medieval and Renaissance buildings. Around the Grand Place is a maze of narrow streets, many of them now reserved for pedestrians, with a delightfully bewildering selection of shops and restaurants.

In this section of the city, too, is the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, a small, elegant opera house with performances so good that it draws audiences from as far away as Paris. Close by is the stock exchange, housed in a pillared, ornate building.

Neither does Brussels have a compact business center. Bank and corporate offices are strung out along the Avenue des Arts, the Avenue de la Loi, the Avenue Louise and the Rue Royale, which leads from the grand park fronting the Royal Palace. New corporate buildings have sprung up around the Gare du Nord, and more and more companies are moving to air-conditioned offices set in landscaped gardens in the suburbs. But nowhere is very far from anywhere else: "a bunch of suburbs in search of a city," Brussels may be, but it's no Los Angeles.

Getting Around

Brussels has good bus, subway and streetcar systems: fast, clean and relatively inexpensive. Don't be surprised when streetcars plunge into tunnels, because some double as subway trains.

Taxis are plentiful, but not cheap. The metered fare includes the tip.

Wining & Dining

Brussels offers more choice for its size than any other European city, from haute cuisine and brasseries to notably good small and neighborhood restaurants serving everything from home cooking to food from exotic, faraway places. Belgian specialties abound: seafood, particularly mussels, which come in a dozen or more ways; *faisan à la Brabançonne* (pheasant with braised Brussels chicory), *lapin à la bière* (rabbit cooked in beer); and, in a short spring sea-

son, *jets d'houblon* (buds of hops in a rich creamy sauce with poached eggs - delicious). There are 300 Belgian beers, ranging from very light and pale to very heavy and dark. As for Belgian *pommes frites* (French fries, if you'll excuse the confusion), they're the best in the world.

Bar and restaurant checks and taxi fares include tips and value-added tax, but leave small change.

Aux Armes de Bruxelles, 13 Rue des Bouchers. Tel.: 511-2118. Businesspeople, politicians and a wide range of Brussels' most dedicated gourmands gather in this colorful brasserie in the old town. Try the *moules au vin blanc* and the thick Waterzooi soup with chicken.

Baguettes Imperiales, 70 Avenue Jean Sobieski. Tel.: 479-6732. If you are out Heysel way for the trade shows or entertainment parks, then a visit to Madame Ma's establishment is a must. Vietnamese specialties include *pétale de boeuf*, *pigeonneau fari* - and hot mangoes.

Bruneau, 73-75 Avenue Broussin, Ganshoren. Tel.: 427-6978. Away from the center, but worth the journey. Patron Jean-Pierre Bruneau is an inventive master of gastronomy, the service is friendly and informed, and the Louis XVI decor is luxu-

L'Eclairier du Palais Royal, 18 Rue Bodenbroek. Tel.: 512-8751. Green-aproned waiters serve with suitable reverence fruits of the sea that may be the best in Brussels. Choice: lobster soufflé and grilled turbot with Sancerre butter.

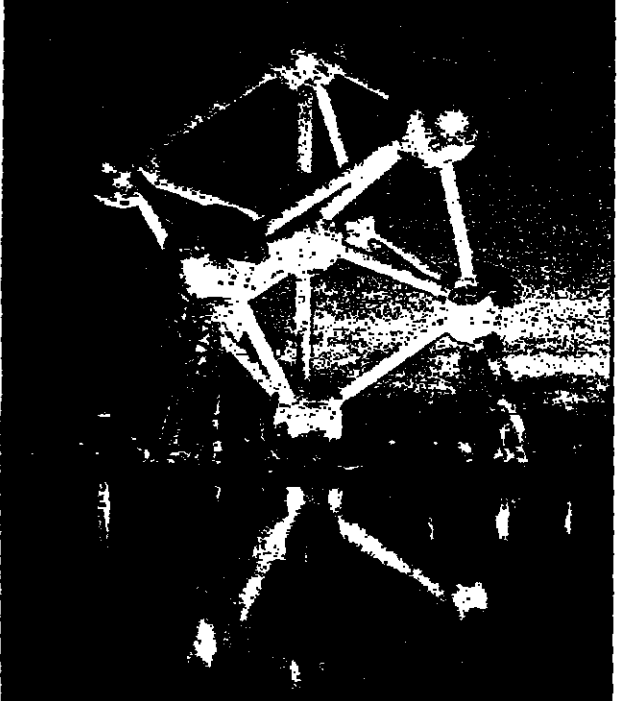
Palais Royal, 103 Rue Royale. Tel.: 227 0532. Small, luxurious, with solid silver tableware. Sauces are light and complement rather than smother the dishes. Waiters seem to know what you want before you do. Game when in season; good fish and steaks year-round.

Porte des Indes, 455 Avenue Louise. Tel.: 647-8651. Cooking of the Raj in exotic surroundings. The city's best Indian table. Has become a favorite for business lunches.

Sea Grill-Le Divellec, 47 Rue Fossé-aux-Loups. Tel.: 219-2828. Jacques Le Divellec's fish restaurant in Paris is frequented by top-level politicians and lesser mortals. Mouth-watering *langoustines, rouget, bar*.

Taverne du Passage, 30 Galerie de la Reine. Tel.: 512-3731. The Taverne spends its customers' money on food rather than decor, so it doesn't look like much. A hangout for politicians and bankers who like its understated comfort and extensive wine cellar.

Villa Lorraine, 75 Avenue Vivier d'Oie. Tel.: 374-3163. One of the best kitchens in Belgium, set in



rious. Eclectic wine list. **Castello Banfi**, 12 Rue Bodenbroek. Tel.: 512-8794. Fine Italian food in an Art Deco setting. Try the *spaghetti au caviar*. In season, white and black truffles accompany the dishes.

Comme Chez Soi, 23 Place Rouppe. Tel.: 512-2921. Belle Epoque atmosphere with the kitchen in full view. Bistro food elevated to world status. Try the ham or salmon mousse, the *filet du sole au Riesling*, the wild duck in season and the pigeon stuffed with truffles.

Falstaff, 19 Rue Henri Maus. Tel.: 511-8789. Honest food, as the French say. A central location and atmosphere make this Art Nouveau brasserie popular. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner till 5 A.M.

Forcado, 192 Chaussée de Charleroi. Tel.: 537-9220. A Portuguese restaurant whose specialty is grilled cod.

François, 2 Quai aux Briques. Tel.: 511-6089. After more than half a century, this fish restaurant is still doing a great job. Large choice of mussel sauces: champagne, curry, white wine and many others. **La Maison du Cygne**, 9 Grand Place. Tel.: 511-8244. Classic elegance, attention to detail, care of guests - a place in which to savor the atmosphere as well as the food and wines. The menu stresses seasonal foods, such as wild boar, venison, game birds and hare (try the *rabat*, or saddle). Oysters so fresh that they juice at a drop of lemon juice.

garden with trees, shrubs and abundant flowers. Definitely for the expense-account set and the independently wealthy.

In a Word

French is spoken in Brussels itself, Dutch (Flemish) in most outlying communities. Street signs and store windows include both languages. Note that there are many Belgianisms - usages different from those of "proper" French. For example, the number 70, *soixante-dix* in French, is *septante* in Belgian French, while 90 is *nonante*. English is very widely spoken.

Calling Around

Country code: 32. City code: 2. You don't use the city code within the metropolitan area. Phone-book instructions and the Yellow Pages' index are in English and German as well as French and Dutch. **Ambulance**: 649-1122. **Police**: 101. **Fire**: 100. **Emergency dentist** (nights and weekends): 426-1026. **Taxis**: 2422-2222. **Hotel reservations**: 513-7484. **U.S. Embassy**: 513-3830.

Excerpted from the "International Herald Tribune Guide to Europe" (third edition, NTC Publishing) by Alan Tullier and Roger Beardwood.

More Comforts Than Ever At ITT Sheraton

THE SHERATON BRUSSELS Hotel & Towers rises above the skyline of downtown Brussels, right next to the business and shopping districts.

Recent renovations have resulted in significant improvements to all parts of the hotel, and a new Conference Center has been added, making the hotel even more interesting to the international business traveler. The new facilities can accommodate up to 1,000 people, but are equipped to handle functions of any size, from a board meeting to a full conference. Five stylish and fully equipped meeting rooms, all with natural daylight, have been combined with a permanent lounge for coffee breaks.

The hotel is also served by a 24-hour Business Center with state-of-the-art equipment.

The hotel has 507 spacious guest rooms (the biggest in Brussels),

including 43 suites and 155 Club rooms.

The suites and apartments, especially designed for business travelers, have all been redecorated, and there is a large, quiet Executive Lounge on the 25th floor with an executive boardroom. All the amenities a traveler requires are available in the hotel.

For dining, the Sheraton Brussels Hotel & Towers offers two fine choices. Mediterranean cuisine is available all day long at the new Crescendo restaurant, which recreates the ambiance of an outdoor café in sunny Southern Europe.

Les Comtes de Flandre, newly redecorated in a rich, elegant style, serves gourmet meals.

For dessert, snacks or coffee at any time, Espresso, the hotel's new Italian coffee bar serves fabulous homemade

pastries, brownies, muffins, American-style cakes, homemade ice cream, deluxe sandwiches and 15 varieties of exquisite coffees.

The featured cake at the coffee shop is the "Dolce Vita," a delicacy made of saffron-flavored chocolate mousse and a ganache of orange-flavored chocolate created by Parisian chef Régis Ramé. The more health-conscious can indulge in freshly pressed fruit drinks.

The English-style Rendez-vous Bar is a good place to relax and have a drink with friends or colleagues in the evening while listening to live piano music.

To work off the calories consumed in the restaurants, café and bar, guests can take advantage of the hotel's newly upgraded Horizon Pool & Fitness Club, located on the 30th floor. It has a superb heated indoor-swimming pool, a sauna

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and a gym, and offers breathtaking views of the city.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Gerg Beats Seizinger in Super-G



Motohiro Yamaguchi of Japan running by a sliding Feng Weiguo of China on Thursday.

Japan Triumphs

SOCCER Naoki Soma scored in the final minute to give Japan a 1-0 victory Thursday over China, which still managed to advance to the Asian Cup quarterfinals in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

Japan, the only team to finish the first round with a perfect 3-0-0 record, already had clinched its trip to the round-of-eight. China moved on when Syria beat Uzbekistan 2-1 later Thursday. Syria needed a 4-0 victory to overtake China, while Uzbekistan needed only a draw.

The result was good news for South Korea, which slipped into the quarterfinals as the second third-place team to advance. South Korea finished with a 1-1-1 record and four points in Group A and needed either China or Uzbekistan to lose to advance. (AP)

White Sox Sign Navarro

BASEBALL Jaime Navarro, who had consecutive winning seasons for the Chicago Cubs after struggling with Milwaukee, agreed to a \$20 million, four-year contract with the Chicago White Sox.

The White Sox quickly shored up their pitching, signing Navarro two days after Alex Fernandez left for a \$35 million, five-year contract with the Florida Marlins. The White Sox also resigned reliever Tony Castillo, who agreed to a \$2.35 million, two-year pact. (AP)

Insanity Defense Is Set In Schultz Murder Case

Lawyers for John E. du Pont, who is charged with shooting and killing the Olympic wrestler Dave Schultz, said du Pont suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and that they would use an insanity defense when the millionaire's murder trial started next month.

Du Pont "has been and continues to be psychotic," his lawyers said in court papers filed Wednesday. Du Pont, 58, heir to the DuPont chemical fortune, holed up inside his mansion for two days after the shooting in January before police captured him. (AP)

Clough Said to Be Ill

SOCCER Nottingham Forest's former manager, Brian Clough, widely thought of as the most influential manager of his generation, is seriously ill in a private hospital, according to a report published in Derby, England, on Thursday.

Clough, who won two European Cups while in charge at Nottingham, was admitted to a clinic suffering from a severe kidney condition after collapsing a week ago, the report said.

It said Clough was undergoing treatment for alcohol-related illness and depression. It also said he had been admitted under the name Brian Gladstone. (APF)

VAL D'ISERE, France — Germany dominated the women's World Cup ski circuit last year and now Hilde Gerg is making it stronger this season after her victory Thursday in the supergiant slalom.

Gerg, who won three races in three days here in February, was second with 1:08:20 ahead of Isolde Kostner of Italy who finished at 1:08:38. Another German, Martina Ertl, was fifth.

Seizinger was the overall World Cup champion last year and Ertl was the top racer in the giant slalom. Now Gerg, with top four finishes in the first three super-Gs this year, is doing better than Seizinger, who also won the super-G World Cup last year.

Seizinger is also a heavy favorite in the downhill after the injury to Picabo Street, the American who beat her the past two years.

"We have the luck to have one of the best in the world in nearly every discipline, and that makes it tough in training," Seizinger said of the German success.

Seizinger already has two victories this year and has been in the top three in five of the eight races this season. Ertl is rounding into form after an early season injury and could add another German victory in the giant slalom Friday.

Seizinger was not surprised by

Gerg's victory. "She has been very strong in training this year in the super-G," Seizinger said.

Gerg said, "I had a very good summer in training and everything went well. Now I had a little luck."

It was Gerg's second World Cup victory, but she had shown good form this season with a second and fourth place in two previous super-Gs. In 1994, she showed promise as an 18-year-old winning a super-G in Sierra Nevada, Spain.

"That was nice, but this one was better," Gerg said. "After the Olympics, it was tough for me, and I think I have learned something."

On a sunny day with more than a meter of packed snow on the course, the 21-year-old Gerg set a time for others to beat by starting in the ninth position. Seizinger came down 21st and was ahead of Gerg's intermediate time by a hundredth of a second but faded in the late stretch.

All three medalists know the Val d'Isere slope well. In addition to Seizinger's victories here in two super-Gs and a downhill, Gerg was third and fourth in the two super-Gs and Kostner was in the top six in all three races.

Renate Goetsch, the Austrian, was fourth with 1:08:44. She won a downhill race in Vail, Colorado, last week where Street injured her knee in training.

Ertl was fifth with 1:08:57 ahead of two French skiers, Florence Masnadà, 1:08:68, and Caroline Montillet, 1:08:79. Warwara Zelenskaya of Russia, 1:08:84, Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden, 1:08:97, and Laetitia Delloz of France, 1:09:21, rounded out the top 10.

Seizinger extended her overall lead in the World Cup standings. Wiberg, who

had a first and second in two previous super-Gs, was ninth in the race and barely held second place in the overall standings.

Seizinger now has 494 points in eight races. Wiberg has 382, with Gerg third at 376. The women have a giant slalom scheduled Friday before two men's races.

The men, after problems with missing equipment, appeared set for a downhill on Saturday and a super-G on Sunday. The Austrians dominated the first training, taking the first six places and 9 of the top 11.

Patrick Ortleb, who won the 1992 Olympic downhill in Val d'Isere on another slope, had the best time ahead of Josef Strobl, who won two years ago in Val d'Isere. The winner last year, Luc Alphand, was the first non-Austrian in seventh.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, a skier making a preliminary run collided with three photographers, and all four were injured.

Jenny Vallier of France, a forerunner checking the course before the actual competitors began, fell near the finish and crashed into the three photographers. One of the photographers, Stefano Reilandini of Italy, suffered a broken left leg.

Street Undergoes Knee Surgery

Picabo Street, the best woman downhill skier in the world for the previous two seasons, underwent surgery Wednesday to repair torn ligaments in her left knee. The Associated Press reported from Vail, Colorado.

"The surgery was successful. Everything went fine," said Dr. Richard



Hilde Gerg winning the supergiant slalom Thursday in Val d'Isere.

Steadman, the U.S. Ski Team physician who operated on Street at his Steadman Hawkins Clinic.

"She was awake for the entire operation," Steadman said. "She was very intuitive as to how things were going and even gave us suggestions as we went along."

Street, who was injured during practice for last weekend's World Cup races at Vail, is expected to be off skis for about six months. She became the first American to win the downhill title, riding a six-race winning streak to the title in 1995, and repeated the performance last season by winning three races.

Flurry in 3d Lifts Whalers Over Panthers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keith Primeau had two goals and Gerald Diduck scored the game-winner as the streaking Hartford Whalers scored five times in the final period to beat the visiting Florida Panthers, 5-2.

With the game between the NHL division leaders tied after Primeau's ninth and 10th goals of the season, Diduck got the decisive score by beating



The Canadiens' Martin Rucinsky slamming into the Sabres' Bob Boughner.

Mark Fitzpatrick from the right point at 6:32 of the final period. The goal was the first this season for Diduck, who also assisted on Primeau's first of the game, 34 seconds into the period.

Paul Coffey and Steven Rice also scored, and the goalie Jason Muzzatti stopped 28 shots as the Northeast Division-leading Whalers (4-0-2) extended their season-high unbeaten string to six games.

Islanders 5, Rangers 3 In New York, Zigmund Palffy's first of two goals capped a four-goal second period, and the Islanders held on to end the Rangers' seven-game unbeaten streak.

The Islanders' goalie, Tommy Salo, wound up with 37 saves as the Rangers outshot the Islanders, 40-30. In addition to ending the Rangers' run at 6-0-1, the Islanders extended their own run of success to 6-2-1 in nine games.

Sabres 5, Canadiens 2 Dominik Hasek made 43 saves, and Dixon Ward scored at 2:42 of overtime to give visiting Buffalo the victory.

Ward scored on a pass from Randy Burridge, who beat Jocelyn Thibault for his fourth goal. That ended a three-game winless slide for the Sabres.

Stars 5, Oilers 3 Joe Nieuwendyk scored the tying goal for Dallas with 7:31 to play as the host Stars completed a comeback from a four-goal deficit. Pierre Turgeon's rebound goal early in the third period keyed the Stars' victory over the Capitals.

hand from in front of the net past Grant Fuhr to tie the game.

Avalanche 6, Canucks 1 After losing two straight games, the visiting Avalanche rebounded with a determined effort and three power-play goals to beat the Canucks.

Penguins 7, Mighty Ducks 3 Mario Lemieux and Petr Nedved each had two goals and an assist as the visiting Penguins routed the Mighty Ducks to win their fifth straight and stretch their unbeaten streak to nine games.

Pittsburgh struck for four second-period goals after falling behind 2-1.

Granato gave the Sharks a 3-1 lead 1:23 into the final period when he scored from 15 feet (4.5 meters) away. It was the fourth straight game in which San Jose had scored a shorthanded goal. The Sharks lead the NHL this season in shorthanded goals, with seven.

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Yanks' Numbers Game Is Clemens, at 34, Worth Millions?

By Dave Anderson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Numbers. That's a familiar word in sports these days. Numbers meaning stats, which in baseball's free-agent follies translate into numbers meaning years and dollars.

If it were any other pitcher's numbers, it would seem silly for the New York Yankees to be thinking about offering a four-year contract for a total of \$28 million for a 34-year-old right-hander who had a 10-13 record last season and a 40-39 record over the last four years.

But that 34-year-old right-hander's name is Roger Clemens.

So the Yankees are ignoring that 40-39 record over the last four years and even that 10-13 record last year while pursuing a 6-foot-4-inch (1.9-meter) 230-pound (104-kilogram) pitcher with three Cy Young Awards who led the American League in earned-run average for three consecutive seasons.

But he won those Cy Young awards in 1986, 1987 and 1991. He led the AL in ERA in 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Judging by his recent numbers, Roger Clemens hasn't really been Roger Clemens the last four years.

But the Yankees don't seem to care that his recent numbers with the Boston Red Sox don't equate to his stature. Or at least George Steinbrenner, the Yankees' principal owner, doesn't seem to care.

Clemens is so important to Steinbrenner that he is personally conducting the Yankees' negotiations with Clemens now.

Judging by the Cleveland Indians' reported five-year, \$37 million offer to Clemens, the Yankees would need to add a year and \$9 million just to match it — not to mention what it would add to whatever new luxury tax the Yankees must pay. Besides, the Red Sox want to retain Clemens.

Steinbrenner's personal involvement recalls his conversation with a Boston correspondent in Yankee Stadium when the Red Sox arrived in New York in

September for a weekend series. Glancing across the grass at Clemens, the Yankees' principal owner said, "He's better than anybody I've got." While Joe Torre, the Yankees' manager, and Bob Watson, the team's general manager, might not agree with that assessment, each supported the pursuit of Clemens despite his record last season.

"He's a winner; he's a horse," Torre was saying at a source Wednesday at the stadium for the recently signed left-hander Mike Stanton and catcher Joe Girardi. "He had control of his stuff. He still has that splitter. He doesn't need to throw in the high 90s if he can throw that splitter in the low 90s. He just says, 'Give me the ball.'"

Watson mentioned that Clemens' 10-13 record last year was deceiving because, the general manager said, "he averaged 7 1/2 innings, but his bullpen blew 12 leads." As if to say that wouldn't happen with the Yankee bullpen even if John Wetteland departs.

When Girardi was asked about Clemens, he suggested only one of his numbers last season was relevant.

"He pitched 242 innings; that's all you need to know," the Yankees' catcher said. "You need horses."

Clemens indeed was a horse last season, with a major-league-leading 257 strikeouts in those 242 innings. He struck out 20 one night in Detroit, tying the major-league record he established in 1986 against the Seattle Mariners.

If nothing else, those 20 strikeouts in Detroit established his market value in baseball's thoroughbred auction. But a baseball "horse" has to be healthy to pitch. This horse, who will be 35 next August when the AL East race is heating up, has had arm problems, especially in his shoulder, going back to surgery in 1985 that delayed his arrival with the Red Sox. Shoulder problems interrupted his 1990 season, and a strained groin and sore elbow hindered him in 1993.

So if the Yankees sign him, only time, not the dollars, will tell if they have acquired an old Roger Clemens or the Roger Clemens of old.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	17	5	.773	—
New York	13	9	.591	4
Orlando	12	8	.600	5
Washington	8	11	.421	7 1/2
Philadelphia	7	12	.369	9
New Jersey	5	11	.310	10 1/2
Boston	5	14	.263	10 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	18	3	.857	—
Detroit	16	3	.842	1
Albany	12	8	.600	5 1/2
Cleveland	12	6	.667	5 1/2
Charlotte	11	9	.550	6 1/2
Memphis	10	9	.526	7
Indiana	8	11	.421	9
Toronto	7	14	.333	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	18	2	.900	—
Utah	17	2	.895	1/2
Dallas	6	11	.353	9 1/2
Minnesota	7	14	.333	11 1/2
Denver	5	17	.227	14
San Antonio	2	18	.105	16 1/2
Vancouver	2	18	.100	17

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
L.A. Lakers	17	7	.708	—
Seattle	16	7	.692	1
Portland	12	9	.571	3 1/2
Golden State	8	13	.381	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	7	14	.333	8 1/2
Sacramento	7	14	.333	8 1/2
Phoenix	5	14	.263	10 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	22	2	.917	—
San Diego	21	3	.875	1
San Antonio	17	7	.708	4
Phoenix	16	7	.692	5
Portland	12	9	.571	9
Golden State	8	13	.381	13
L.A. Clippers	7	14	.333	14
Sacramento	7	14	.333	14
Phoenix	5	14	.263	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	22	2	.917	—
San Diego	21	3	.875	1
San Antonio	17	7	.708	4
Phoenix	16	7	.692	5
Portland	12	9	.571	9
Golden State	8	13	.381	13
L.A. Clippers	7	14	.333	14
Sacramento	7	14	.333	14
Phoenix	5	14	.263	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	22	2	.917	—
San Diego	21	3	.875	1
San Antonio	17	7	.708	4
Phoenix	16	7	.692	5
Portland	12	9	.571	9
Golden State	8	13	.381	13
L.A. Clippers	7	14	.333	14
Sacramento	7	14	.333	14
Phoenix	5	14	.263	16 1/2

HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	16	12	3	35	62	72
Pittsburgh	12	13	3	27	62	62
Florida	12	13	3	27	62	62
N.Y. Rangers	12	13	3	27	62	62
N.Y. Islanders	10	11	8	28	77	77
Washington	12	13	3	27	74	76
Tampa Bay	9	15	2	20	73	84

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Hartford	14	7	3	31	62	62
Buffalo	14	12	3	31	62	62
Pittsburgh	12	13	3	27	62	62
Florida	12	13	3	27	62	62
N.Y. Rangers	12	13	3	27	62	62
N.Y. Islanders	10	11	8	28	77	77
Washington	12	13	3	27	74	76
Tampa Bay	9	15	2	20	73	84

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	16	10	3	35	62	72
St. Louis	15	9	5	35	62	62
St. Louis	15	9	5	35	62	62
St. Louis	15	9	5	35	62	62
St. Louis	15	9	5	35	62	62
St. Louis	15	9	5	35	62	62
St. Louis	15	9	5	35	62	62
St. Louis	15	9	5	35	62	62

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	14	12	2	30	105	95
Edmonton	14	12	2	30	105	95
Vancouver	14	12	2	30	105	95
Los Angeles	12	14	3	27	79	90
San Jose	11	14	4	26	75	93
Anaheim	10	16	5	25	101	101
Calgary	10	16	4	24	71	82

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	8	2	0	16	62	62
Hartford	8	2	0	16	62	62

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	8	2	0	16	62	62
Hartford	8	2	0	16	62	62

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	8	2	0	16	62	62
Hartford	8	2	0	16	62	62

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	8	2	0	16	62	62
Hartford	8	2	0	16	62	62

Budweiser SPORTS NOTES

DECEMBER 13, 1992

HAPPY FEET. IN AN EPIC PERFORMANCE THE LIKES OF WHICH MAY NEVER BE EQUALED, POLISH-BORN FOOTBALLER STEPHAN STANKOWSKI SCORES 16 GOALS IN A SINGLE MATCH. STANKOWSKI'S SWEET 16 SHATTERS THE WORLD MARK AND POWERS THE RACING CLUB DE LENS PAST AUBRY-ASTURES IN LENS, FRANCE.

THIS BUD'S FOR YOU.

SKIING

Leading results in the World Cup women's slalom on Thursday in Val d'Isere, France: 1. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 1 minute 28.1 seconds; 2. Katja Seizinger, Germany, 1:28.20; 3. Isolde Kostner, Italy, 1:28.30; 4. Pernilla Wiberg, Sweden, 1:28.37; 5. Laetitia Delloz, France, 1:28.41.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

Udinese 1, Juventus 4
Atalanta 2, Fiorentina 1
Lazio 1, Roma 2
Parma 1, Lazio 1
Atalanta 1, Cagliari 1
Verona 1, Reggina 1

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago 2, Detroit 1
Boston 1, Toronto 1
New York Yankees 1, Baltimore Orioles 1
Los Angeles Angels 1, Oakland Athletics 1
Seattle Mariners 1, Texas Rangers 1
San Diego Padres 1, San Francisco Giants 1
Houston Astros 1, St. Louis Cardinals 1
Cleveland Indians 1, Minnesota Twins 1
Pittsburgh Pirates 1, Cincinnati Reds 1
Philadelphia Phillies 1, Montreal Expos 1
Washington Nationals 1, New York Mets 1
Florida Marlins 1, Atlanta Braves 1
San Jose Giants 1, Los Angeles Dodgers 1
San Francisco Giants 1, San Diego Padres 1
Houston Astros 1, St. Louis Cardinals 1
Cleveland Indians 1, Minnesota Twins 1
Pittsburgh Pirates 1, Cincinnati Reds 1
Philadelphia Phillies 1, Montreal Expos 1
Washington Nationals 1, New York Mets 1
Florida Marlins 1, Atlanta Braves 1
San Jose Giants 1, Los Angeles Dodgers 1
San Francisco Giants 1, San Diego Padres 1
Houston

SPORTS

Finally, Nets Win Against A Winning Team, 110-101

The Associated Press

Kendall Gill scored 24 points and Robert Pack had eight straight to put New Jersey ahead for good in a 110-101 victory over visiting Seattle.

Kerry Kittles added 20 points Wednesday night, and Pack finished with 19 points and 12 assists as the Nets posted their first victory since last Feb.

NBA Roundup

January over a team with a winning record — a streak of 25 games. Detlef Schrempf had a season-high 30 points for Seattle, which lost for the fourth time in six games.

Bullets 106, Cavaliers 98 Washington held visiting Cleveland to five baskets in the second quarter, and Chris Webber had 23 points and 11 rebounds as the Bullets ended a five-game losing streak.

Juwan Howard scored 25 for Washington, which became only the second team to reach 100 points against the Cavaliers this season.

Hornets 101, Nuggets 97 Charlotte played its first home game since finishing a seven-game road trip and got a season-high 25 points and a career-high 21 rebounds from Anthony Mason in a victory over Denver.

Deil Curry put the Hornets ahead to stay on a 3-pointer with 35 seconds left, helping send the Nuggets to their eighth consecutive loss.

Bulls 103, Timberwolves 98 In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 27 points, and Scottie Pippen had 26 as the Bulls overcame Dennis Rodman's absence and ended their two-game losing streak.

Celtics 115, Raptors 113 Rick Fox made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give host Boston the victory in triple overtime.

Heat 94, 76ers 79 In Philadelphia, Tim Hardaway scored 21 points, and Alonzo Mourning had 20 points and 17 rebounds as Miami extended its road



Tom Gugliotta of the Minnesota Timberwolves reaching over Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls in an attempt to block Jordan's shot.

winning streak to 11 games. Hardaway drove past Allen Iverson for a layup that gave the Heat the lead for good, 80-79, with 26.4 seconds to play.

Lakers 79, Pacers 76 Shaquille O'Neal scored 33 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as host Los Angeles beat Indiana and moved into first place in the Pacific Division.

Union Urges Rodman to Act

The NBA players union is urging Dennis Rodman to file a grievance over his two-game suspension, arguing that

the Chicago Bulls violated the league's collective-bargaining agreement by effectively fining Rodman about \$25,000 — his salary for the two games.

Rodman was suspended by the Bulls on Tuesday for a profanity-laden tirade he made about the officiating in Chicago's loss at Toronto. The comments were broadcast live on cable television.

Golota Girds for 2d Crack at Bowe

By Clifton Brown
New York Times Service

ATLANTIC CITY — Andrew Golota arrived for the news conference wearing a Chicago Bulls cap and a red and black sweatshirt.

Golota, a native of Poland who lives in Chicago, is a huge Bulls fan. And the heavyweight boxer wants to emulate his favorite team in another way — by becoming a champion.

Golota (28-1) can take a major step toward his goal Saturday night, when he fights Riddick Bowe (39-1) in a 10-round heavyweight bout at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The fight is a rematch of their first fight on July 11, when Bowe won on a controversial disqualification of his opponent at Madison Square Garden.

Highlighting the undercard will be a 10-round heavyweight bout between Ray Mercer (23-4-1) and Tim Witherspoon (45-4).

The first Bowe-Golota fight was a bad night for boxing and for Bowe, a native of Brooklyn, who was trailing on the scorecards of all three judges when

the fight was stopped in the seventh round. Golota was disqualified for low blows, and moments after the fight there was a lengthy brawl involving the camps of the two fighters and angry fans.

Golota needed stitches to close cuts on his head after he had been pummeled by a walkie-talkie, and Bowe's promotional company was eventually fined \$250,000 for its role in the disturbance.

But Golota's ability to hit and hurt Bowe solidified his standing as a contender. At 6 feet 4 inches (1.9 meters) and 240 pounds (108 kilograms), Golota has a chiseled body, hits hard and he has surprising agility.

The winner of Saturday's bout will position himself as a major player in the heavyweight division. Did Golota give Bowe so much trouble in July because Bowe was out of shape, or because Golota is the better fighter? Golota looks forward to answering that question.

"I hurt him a few times, and I thought I fought a great fight," Golota said. "He said he's going to

bring something new. I expect a tough fight."

That is about as close to trash-talking as Golota came Wednesday. Bowe was much more outspoken, predicting a knockout. But Bowe's confidence did not seem to faze Golota, who calmly answered questions in both English and Polish, with which he is more comfortable.

Asked what he thought of Bowe's prediction, Golota said: "He can't knock me out by just saying it. That's part of his show."

At age 28, Golota knows Saturday's fight could be a make-or-break bout for his career. He has come a long way from his native Warsaw, where he first started boxing at 13 when his uncle took him to a gym. According to Lou Duva, Golota's co-trainer, the boxer had an impoverished childhood in Warsaw, and that background has contributed to his toughness.

"This kid came up the real hard way," Duva said. "And I had trouble with him at the beginning, because he didn't trust me fully. Now, we're very close. He's a much improved fighter."

South Africa Fails Test in India

The Associated Press

KANPUR, India — India defeated South Africa by 280 runs in the third and final cricket test to end the series Thursday, 2-1.

For South Africa, it was the first series defeat since its return to international cricket in 1991.

Set a mammoth score of 461 to win, South Africans were bowled out for 180 in their second innings just after lunch on the fifth and final day.

"This series is very satisfying," India's captain, Sachin Tendulkar, said after the match, adding that South Africa had one of the best cricket teams in the world.

South Africa's captain, Hansie Cronje, praised India for using the conditions better than his team.

"I am disappointed but not disheartened by the reverse," he said. "Our basic problem is that our bowlers

can't make the ball swing as much as the Indians or Pakistanis do."

Cronje said an injury to the fast bowler Allan Donald did not help matters.

"He would have made a difference," Cronje said.

Tendulkar said his winning toss and 163 runs by Mohammed Azharuddin had put India in an unassailable position.

South Africa lost the battle Wednesday when its top batsmen floundered and put up only 127 for the loss of five wickets on a slow wicket.

The South Africans suffered early blows Thursday when two wickets fell within a space of 11 runs.

India won the first test in Ahmedabad, and South Africa evened the series in Calcutta.

India will travel to South Africa next week to play a three-test series.



Venkatesh Prasad, right, getting the upper hand for India.

Is a Player's Pain the Team's Gain? The NFL's Culture Treads a Fine Line

By Dave Sell
Washington Post Service

On Thanksgiving Day, the Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw sat on a Hollywood sound stage and told television viewers that the Washington Redskins' wide receiver, Michael Westbrook, was letting his team down by not returning to a game in Dallas with what initially was described by the team as a bruised knee.

Bradshaw's reaction was typical of a man who had spent years inside professional football's culture of pain. There are myths, legends and true stories of players enduring great pain to win one for the team.

As the Hall of Fame linebacker and Redskins radio broadcaster Sam Huff said, "You want them all to be like John Wayne and Clint Eastwood in the movies."

But life in the NFL of the '90s is not that simple and not always that heroic. It is rife with conflicts

when it comes to the complicated issue of injury and performance.

How much pain is too much, and who should judge? Will playing with an injury worsen it or damage the player permanently? Is a healthy backup more effective than an ailing starter? Is using an ailing player for a particular game worth the risk of a career-ending injury? Can a team doctor be objective when both he and his patient get their paychecks from the same source?

The day after Thanksgiving, a magnetic-resonance image determined that Westbrook's collision with a teammate, Jamie Asher, had knocked a piece of cartilage off his femur.

Westbrook and team doctors are putting off likely arthroscopic surgery in hopes he can still play a little, but he did not play in the Redskins' loss Sunday at Tampa Bay.

From playing with a broken arm to sitting on the sideline with

a bruised knee, the culture of pain in professional sports is composed of a wide spectrum of injuries, and to play-or-not-to-play conflicts are part of the life.

At one extreme is perfect health, which the Redskins' offensive-line coach Jim Hanifan tells his players ends five minutes into the first training-camp practice. At the other end is an obvious injury that ends a season or career, such as when the leg of the Redskins' quarterback Joe Theismann was snapped in a game against the New York Giants some years ago.

In between is a gray area, and in the middle of the gray area is a line. On one side of the line, the player is injured and should not play. On the other, the player is sore but should be as ready as possible. Defining the gray area and drawing the line make up the tricky part.

"You can't define it any more exactly than that, because the nature of the beast is such that it

varies from one situation to the next," said Rob Huizenga, a former team doctor for the Oakland Raiders, who recommends that players and doctors recognize the inherent conflicts of interest that exist when a team employs both and get as many independent opinions as possible before reaching a decision.

"Why is the player's desire always questioned?" an agent, Don Yee, asked. "It's important to remind players to step out of the bubble that they live in and take a more realistic perspective. There are guys who play rec-league basketball, sprain ankles and say, 'I can't put any weight on it,' let alone play at the highest level of pro football."

Players sometimes become desensitized to that idea. My general advice to players is: 'You only have one body. If you have an injury, get it checked thoroughly. The detriment is only to you.' Teams are not supposed to cut

injured players, but they can and do cut players they think are injury-prone. If a player is injured and unable to play, his salary still counts against the team's salary cap; and if a player who has been paid a big signing bonus has a career-ending injury, teams can face even more severe hits to their salary caps. For example, if Westbrook's injury ended his career now, the Redskins would have \$4.6 million of wasted space on their salary-cap books in 1997.

"Durability becomes a significant factor, because there is so much money involved," said Tom Donahoe, the Pittsburgh Steelers' director of football operations. "If a guy misses five or six games a year, you'll think about whether you want to sign him; and I don't know about all coaches, but many would rather have a guy with less talent who is more dependable than a more talented guy who you don't know when he'll show up."

When there was no free agency and no prospect of moving to another team for higher pay, playing with an injury might endear a player to his current team and help him get a pay raise or longer stay.

The night before a game in 1993 against Buffalo in his final season with the Redskins, the center Jeff Bostic told other members of the offensive line not to get hurt because he had reinjured his already sore knee a couple of days earlier. Hanifan got angry at Bostic for supposedly jinxing them after Ed Simmons got hurt early in the game. Bostic hobbled in.

"He slipped on his first play, and his guy made the tackle, and I thought, 'He must be hurting,' but after that he played out of his gourd," Hanifan said.

The Redskins' team doctor, Donald Knowlan, said players were as tough today as ever. Sometimes stories from the old timers, Knowlan said, "have a lot of icing on them," and they some-

times had to learn to deal with pain like players today.

In 1981, the Redskins' rookie guard Russ Grimm was on the sideline during a game against Chicago because his knee was out of place. One trainer pushed the top of the leg one way and another trainer pushed from below the knee to realign the joint.

"I always remember watching Joe Jacoby watching Grimm. Knowlan said of the two offensive linemen who later became part of the tough Hogs. 'They were standing there with their mouths wide open as Grimm is screaming and yelling. That's how they learn. They watch and change.'"

That still happens today. Sometimes teammates apply pressure and are the first to know who is not putting out.

"You find out who will stick their face in the briar patch and who won't," said Minnesota linebacker Darryl Talley, who did not miss a game in his first 13 seasons.

DENNIS THE MENACE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



WIZARD of ID



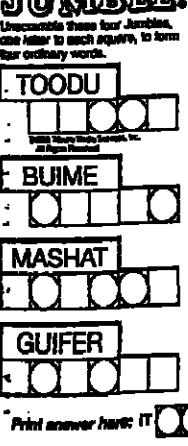
THE FAR SIDE



DOONESBURY



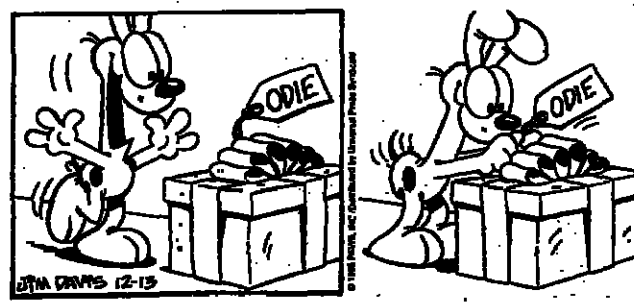
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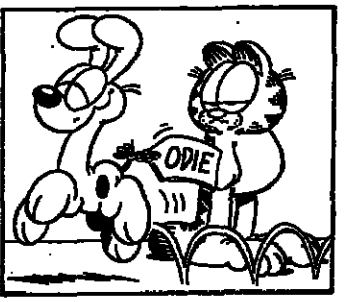
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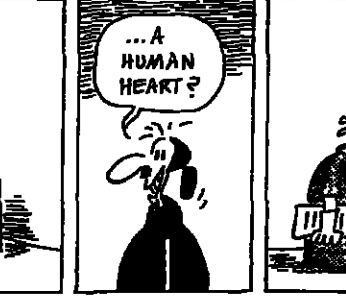
BEETLE BAILEY



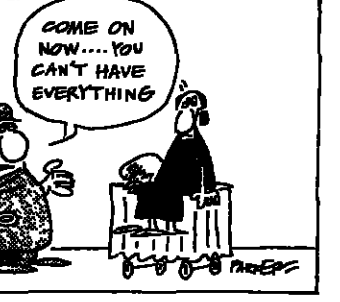
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